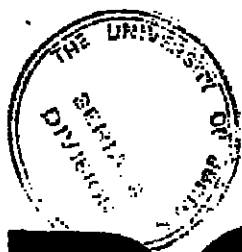


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TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1990/RAJAB 3, 1410 AH

22 PAGES 150 FILLS

'Million-peso' price Coup-general seized in raid

MANILA, Jan 29 (Reuters): Philippine troops in a dawn raid today captured a rebel general regarded as one of the main organisers of last month's failed coup against President Corason Aquino, the military said.

Brigadier-General Edgardo Abenina, who had a million-peso (\$44,500) price on his head, is the most senior officer arrested since the rebellion was crushed.

Military officials said he suffered bruises trying to escape troops who surrounded his Manila hideout.

"He must have sensed it so he tried to get out, hoping to escape in the darkness but he was subdued," Colonel Jesus Ranjo, chief of staff of the Manila defence command, told reporters. (See Page 2)

Kashmir leader hardens demand

ISLAMABAD, Jan 29 (Agencies): The leader of the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front today demanded that India end on-going military operations in the disputed Muslim region.

"The people of Kashmir in general, and JKLF in particular, will never accept any solution which is not based on ... self-determination," JKLF chairman Amanullah Khan told a news conference in the capital of Pakistan.

He said it was up to the people of the region sandwiched between Afghanistan and China and claimed by both India and Pakistan to "decide to accede to either Pakistan or India ... or opt for their own independence, he said."

Khan's demand indicated a hardening of the Kashmiri stand which previously revolved round two options — to join either Pakistan or India.

In Islamabad, the Pakistan cabinet declared today the country would observe a special week to mark its solidarity with Kashmiris fighting Indian rule.

The meeting devoted to Kashmir, chaired by Nusrat Bhutto while her daughter Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is recovering from the birth of her second child, gave no details but said the solidarity week would begin on Friday.

It also decided to convene a special joint session of Parliament on Feb 10 to discuss the Kashmir conflict.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan is due to spell out Pakistan's policy on the Kashmir issue in a televised address on Tuesday evening.

JKLF leader criticised US President George Bush and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for suggesting this week that India and Pakistan should solve the Kashmir issue through bilateral talks.

"By doing so, they have insulted and humiliated 12 million Kashmiris," he said.

The head of the most powerful Kashmiri separatist group condemned both Pakistan and India, saying they "have no right at all" to decide the future of the disputed region.

The "Kashmir issue is not a territorial dispute between India and Pakistan, but it concerns Kashmiris' right of self-determination," he said. "Kashmiris (Continued on Page 2)

Weather

TEMPERATURE will remain below normal with light to moderate north-easterly breeze.

State of sea: Slight

High water: 2.00 am, 3.00 pm

Low water: 9.00 am, 9.00 pm

Sunrise: 6.39 am

Sunset: 5.24 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 13°C 55°F

Al-Jahra: 13°C 55°F

Falaka: 12°C 54°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 2°C 36°F

Al-Jahra: 5°C 41°F

Falaka: 6°C 43°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 14°C 57°F

Al-Jahra: 14°C 57°F

Falaka: 13°C 55°F

Minimum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 91 per cent

Al-Jahra: 72 per cent

Falaka: 83 per cent



Beaten hollow

San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Jerry Rice celebrates on the shoulders of his teammates after scoring his second touchdown on Super Bowl XXIV during the second quarter. 49ers beat Broncos 55-10. (Reuters wirephoto) See Page 21

Arabs step up protests

Soviet Jews' emigration

CAIRO, Jan 29 (AP): President Sadat today said that the United States today for an influx of Soviet Jews to Israel, leading a chorus of Arab protests.

The Arab League brought up the question officially with the United States, and Arab foreign ministers were reported planning to meet on how to stop the flood.

The Soviet Union also drew Arab fire, as newspapers echoed PLO leader Yasser Arafat's weekend call for the Soviet government to reverse itself and curtail migration of its Jews to Israel.

In a Cairo speech on Saturday, Arafat appeared to point blaming fingers at both the Soviet Union and the United States. The PLO chairman appealed to Moscow for restrictions as he alleged that Washington was giving Israel money to help settle immigrants.

Israeli officials have predicted 300,000 Soviet Jews will arrive in Israel in the next three years under relaxed Soviet emigration procedures.

Speaking to reporters in Cairo, Sadat said the influx is causing "plain and serious harm" to the Palestinians. Arafat told the Saudi Arabian newspaper Al-Yawm that the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel is "a catastrophe befalling the Arab world."

Arafat and other Arab leaders clearly fear that settling Soviet and other immigrants in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza would make an Arab-Israeli peace

settlement more difficult, if not impossible.

Conquered by Israel in 1967, the two territories are the crux of the conflict. If hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants settled there, the Arabs fear Israel would be reluctant to relinquish any part of the territory.

The United Arab Emirates' newspaper Al-Bayan quoted Farouk Kadumi, head of the PLO's political department, as saying Arab foreign ministers will meet next Monday in the Tunisian capital Tunis. He said their subject will be whether to approach Soviet and East European officials to stop their Jews from going to Israel.

Presently about 70,000 Jews live in more than 120 settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. Some 12,000 Soviet Jews arrived in Israel last year, but Israeli officials expect the annual volume to soar to 100,000 in the next few years.

Sadat told reporters in Cairo, "this matter involves plain and serious harm to the Arabs generally and the Palestinians in particular. We regard the United States as a participant in this immigration because of its policies."

(See Pages 9 and 11)

UK appoints new ambassador to Kuwait

LONDON, Jan 29 (Kuna): The British government announced today the appointment of Michael Weston as its new ambassador to Kuwait.

The new envoy will replace Peter Hinchcliffe, who will take up a further diplomatic service appointment, the Foreign Office said.

Weston was born on Aug 4, 1937 and was educated at St Catharine's College, Cambridge, southern England.

He entered the foreign service in 1961 and took up his appointment as a third secretary later that year. The new envoy is an Arabist who was assigned to

the Middle East Centre for Arabic Studies (Mecas) in Lebanon on full-time Arabic language study.

On completion of his course was appointed third and later second secretary in Kuwait.

Weston also served previously at the Arabic department in the Foreign Office.

At the beginning of 1968 he began Persian language training in preparation for his posting three months later to Tehran as first secretary.

From 1970 to 1974 he served as the first secretary at the UK mission to the United Nations in New York.

Govt. won't tolerate provocative activity

Premier stresses dialogue; regrets meetings

KUWAIT, Jan 29, (Kuna): His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah today stressed that dialogue was the sole means for settling national issues, indicating the government was exploring ideal means for people's participation that will keep away passive outcomes which hampered parliamentary life in the country.

Sheikh Saad's remarks came during a meeting he held with editors-in-chief of local newspapers.

Sheikh Saad explained the circumstances which forced the Amir to disband the former National Assembly after parliamentary practices threatened to dismantle the country's national unity and stirred up discord among the community and almost impeded the functioning of all the state's executive bodies.

He reviewed the incessant efforts of the Amir to overcome crisis that threatened continuity of parliamentary life as well as his own efforts in this direction to boost fraternity and positive co-operation in the interest of the country.

Sheikh Saad referred to repeated meetings which took place since the dissolution of National Assembly, saying: "Regrettably in those meetings some echoed exaggerations which the authority tackled with tolerance and the spirit of the one family in the hope that those behind it would realise the uselessness of such a style and to pursue the method that suits the nature of our society."

"The government had exercised wisdom and patience in dealing with the issue of these gatherings which of late became provocative and took up the issue outside the framework of the Kuwaiti family in addition to other acts which proved that some were aimed at certain ends beyond the issue of parliamentary life, exposing the security and stability of the country to danger and threatened our national unity," Sheikh Saad said.

Sheikh Saad regretted continuation of such attitudes particularly after the call by the Amir for dialogue and consultations in the interest of the country.

He affirmed that though the government believes that escalation would not be in the interest of the country, it would not tolerate burning the security and stability of the country.

Sheikh Saad told the meeting that the doors of dialogue would remain open for all till an appropriate formula that will meet the national aspirations and overstep the shortcomings of the previous experiences is accomplished.

Sheikh Saad called for joining efforts and provision of positive atmosphere to make a success of dialogue through adherence to responsibility and wisdom taking into consideration the country's higher interest.

Replying to a question on allegations by foreign media that the former assembly was dissolved under foreign pressure, Sheikh Saad stressed the independence of the Kuwaiti national decision, saying "we do not bow or take instructions from any foreign quarter."

On press censorship, Sheikh Saad reiterated that the issue would be reconsidered.



Face-off

A Romanian demonstrator shouts anti-National Salvation Front slogans as rival party supporters faced each other in Victory Square in Bucharest.

(Reuters wirephoto). See Page 7

He stressed that the search for a new formula for parliamentary life should be carried out in a quiet and rational atmosphere characterised with wisdom, responsibility and objectivity within the framework of the principles stipulated in the recent address by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah in which he expressed his keenness on broadening the base of consultation, parliamentary life and people's participation.

The Crown Prince underscored that national interest necessitates not to expose the country anew to the same circumstances which led to the failure of the previous parliamentary experience.



Honecker arrested, faces trial

East Germany's disgraced former leader Erich Honecker, his erstwhile security police boss and close political associates will stand trial for treason in March, the prosecutor-general said yesterday.

Hans-Juergen Joseph, in a televised speech to parliament unveiling the extent of criminal inquiries

into what he called "indescribable arrogance of power", said the four former politburo titans would be tried before the Supreme Court.

East German police arrested Honecker yesterday on his release from an East Berlin hospital, where he had undergone surgery to have a malignant kidney tumour removed.

Honecker's doctor protested the arrest, claiming the former leader was not fit to be jailed.

Honecker and his wife left the hospital holding hands (left), but was taken away by security men (centre) after a piling kiss (right) (Reuters wirephotos)

(See Page 7)

Rivals to hold peace talks

MOSCOW, Jan 29, (Agencies): Armenia slid toward a blackout crisis today with schools and factories empty and idle and homes without heat as Muslim Azerbaijan nationalists maintained their stranglehold on vital railroads that link Christian Armenia with the outside world.

The blockade worsened as the Interfax service of Radio Moscow reported from Riga that representatives of the warring popular fronts from Armenia and Azerbaijan planned to meet in the Latvian capital next week for talks.

Interfax said the talks would be mediated by officials from popular fronts in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and cover the Soviet intervention in the southern republics, as well as refugee and humanitarian questions.

The official Soviet news agency, Tass, said today that food, fuel and raw materials for Armenian factories were all critically short and no more than two or three days fuel supplies were left at the Armenian oil-fired power station at Razdan and at the gas-fired station in the Armenian capital of Yerevan.

"The blockade has hit energy supplies the hardest. Most factories and plants stand idle, schools have no heat and there is no light in houses in the evening," Tass reported today.

(Continued on Page 2)

US to close 69 bases 14 overseas stations included

WASHINGTON, Jan 29, (Reuters): Defence Secretary Dick Cheney proposed today to close or cut operations at 69 US military bases, including 14 overseas, in anticipation of major troops cuts over the next five years.

Foreign bases would be closed in Italy, Turkey, Greece, and Royal Air Force Wetherfield in Britain.

The Nea Makri Naval Communication Station and the Hellikon Air Base in Greece, Comiso Air Base in Italy, Kwang Ju Air Base, Suwon Air Base and Taegu Air Base in South Korea, Erhae Air Base and Ekisehir munitions storage site in Turkey and Zweibrucken Air Base in West Germany.

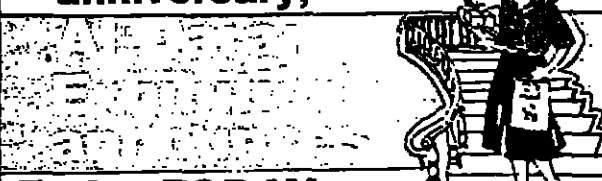
In addition, the US Navy would cut operations at Bermuda naval air station and realign forces at San Miguel naval communications station in the Philippines.

The proposal is expected to come

South Korea, Britain and West Germany, with reduced operations at naval stations in Bermuda and the Philippines.

Cheney's plan would end US operations at the Royal Air Force Fairford, Royal Air Force Greenham Common

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No tax raise US budget

WASHINGTON, Jan 29, (Reuters): President George Bush sent to Congress today a proposed \$12.2 billion budget for spending in fiscal 1991 that calls for lowering the US deficit to \$63.1 billion without raising taxes.

The budget plan includes a \$306.9 billion authorisation for defence, slightly higher than the \$301.6 billion authorised for the current fiscal 1990, but about two per cent less than the rate of inflation.

The proposed spending represents a three per cent increase over 1990 spending. But the fiscal 1991 spending rise would be offset by a nine per cent increase in revenues. (See Page 14)

under heavy fire on Capitol Hill, where members of Congress have called for deep defence cuts — but not in their home districts, where military installations are a boon to local economies.

Legislators have pressed for inclusion of overseas bases in any future cuts.

"The Defence Department is determined to sustain a strong, forward-deployed military presence overseas, but global and regional trends make it possible for us to adjust some of our overseas facilities, in consultation with our allies," Cheney said.

Domestic closings would affect bases in Michigan, California, Ohio, Missouri, Indiana, Kansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Arkansas, South Carolina, Alabama and New York.

The domestic cuts appear to hit hardest in California, where 11 bases were listed for possible closing, including Fort Ord.

(See Page 6)

ARAB TIMES

Grand Bingo

Ronald D'Souza has won the KD25 prize for Top Line. Game No. 75 continues for the three Full House prizes. Numbers appear on Page 2.

Pledges fail to stem Indo-Pak war fears

ISLAMABAD, Jan 29, (Reuters): Pledges by Pakistan and India that they do not want a crisis over a Muslim revolt in Kashmir to slide into war have failed to halt anxiety in the Pakistani capital about a possible clash.

Both sides took steps at the weekend to underline their desire to settle the emotive Kashmir issue peacefully, but talk of war has sparked concern among diplomats.

Indian Foreign Minister Inder

Gujral said unequivocally at the weekend that India did not want a third war with Pakistan over Kashmir.

His Pakistani counterpart Sahabzada Yaqub Khan repeated the sentiment in a briefing for a group of Pakistani reporters on Sunday after returning from tough talks in New Delhi.

"Both governments are weak and I think there is a real danger that they will be pushed into an escalating cycle of

rhetoric," one senior Western diplomat said.

"I feel it alarming that the talk of war has become current in the press and in private discussions with Pakistanis," he said.

"It is a very difficult and tragic convergence of factors," said an Indian source who asked not to be named. "I hope that we can keep it under control. It could, to use Yaqub Khan's words, have perilous implications."

Ties have chilled dramatically in the past month as deaths have mounted in the Kashmir valley, ruled by India. More than 60 died last week in violent anti-Indian protests that New Delhi accuses Pakistan of fomenting.

Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, recovering in hospital from the birth of her second child, denied Pakistani responsibility but angered New Delhi by insisting the issue be settled by a plebiscite under the United Nations.

Diplomats agree there is no immediate danger of conflict but said minority governments in both Islamabad and New Delhi could bow to vociferous public opinion.

Much depends on whether Pakistan's opposition parties try to use Kashmir as a weapon to whip up popular emotions against Benazir, said one Western diplomat.

Indian High Commissioner Jyotindra Nath Dixit acknowledged the anx-

ieties in an interview but said India did not want war.

"I am concerned, and we feel that every effort should be made by both sides to defuse the situation and to keep the dialogue and the lines of communication open," he said.

Western diplomats believe some weapons are smuggled across the 1,400-km (870-mile) ceasefire line that divides Indian-ruled Jammu and Kashmir state from Pakistan's Azad Kashmir.

Raid in Quezon City nets rebel general

Philippine military goes on full alert

MANILA, Jan 29, (Agencies): Troops today captured Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina, a leader in last month's coup attempt, and two of his aides in a raid in suburban Quezon City, the military said.

Troops of the national capital region defence command swooped in on his hideout at 2 a.m. the military said. Abenina surrendered peacefully after he jumped a fence and hurt his leg, it said.

Arrested with Abenina were constabulary Maj. Napoleon Castro and Capt. Artemio Moises. A limping Abenina, wearing slippers, T-shirt and jeans, appeared at a news conference called by armed forces

chief Gen. Renato de Villa but Abenina declined to speak to reporters. De Villa said the arrest of Abenina, who had a governing bounty of one million pesos (\$45,000) offered for his capture, was "in the blow" to some 1,000 mutineers still at large and are regrouping to mount another uprising against President Corazon Aquino.

De Villa said the bounty will go to an unnamed civilian informer. At her weekly news conference, Aquino said she was pleased with Abenina's arrest. Aquino said she had directed the military to "exert all effort" in capturing renegade soldiers.

Aquino also revealed there had been reports dissident soldiers planned a new uprising and that this had prompted the military to go on full alert since her 57th birthday last Thursday.

At a recent clandestine news conference with four of Manila's major dailies, Abenina identified himself as one of the three officers comprising the junta that mutineers planned to establish once they overthrew Aquino. The others were ousted Army Lt. Col. Gregorio Honasan and retired Philippine Air Force Brig. Gen. Jose Maria Zume.

Officials said Honasan, who led a bloody coup attempt in August 1987, was the mastermind of the Dec 1-9 uprising. Zume is the underground leader of a faction in the 159,000-member armed forces loyal to the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

Abenina was the fourth alleged mutineer to be arrested from the list of top 15 rebels issued by the military this month. A bounty of from 500,000 pesos (\$22,700) to one million pesos (\$45,400) was offered for information leading to the capture of each of the coup leaders.

At least 119 people were killed in the December coup attempt, the sixth and strongest challenge to Aquino in her nearly four years in power.

Nearly 2,000 officers and soldiers who participated in the failed coup have either surrendered or have been captured. Authorities said some 1,000 mutineers remained at large.

News reports today said troops in the capital went on red alert — the maximum state of preparedness — over the weekend after intelligence reports were received saying the mutineers would spring their captured comrades detained in military stockades. However, no incidents were reported.

Earlier this month, Sen. Joseph Estrada released a letter from Abenina in which he said the coup participants wanted to eliminate government corruption and usher in broad social, economic and political reforms.

"The Aquino government has failed," Abenina said in the letter. "It has failed to govern and ensure the safety and well-being of its citizens. We need a government that reflects our virtues."

The Sri Lankan government started negotiating with the Tigers to give them a political role, while the Indians, who once gave the Tigers sanctuary on Indian soil, became the enemy.

Small groups of armed Tigers, often referred to by Jaffna residents as "our boys," moved openly in the centre of town Sunday, according to the telephone reports.

When the Sri Lankan government failed to squelch the insurrection, it enlisted Indian help.

"We saw the Tiger flag fluttering all over the town and shops were open, traffic was abnormal active and people were throwing the tanks," one resident said on condition of not being identified.

Jaffna, 300 km (186 miles) northeast of Colombo, was the heart of a Tamil separatist revolt that erupted in 1983 against the Sinhalese ethnic majority that dominates the Sri Lankan government and armed forces.

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Azeris maintain rail blockade

Negotiations in Riga

(Continued from Page 1)

The agency said 188 goods trains with supplies for Armenia — one of the Soviet Union's most important industrial areas — were prevented by nationalists from travelling across neighboring Azerbaijan from the vital Caspian Sea port and railroad at Baku.

"The (Armenian) government has ordered limited use of energy at every enterprise and television transmissions have been cut," Tass said today.

Armenia is geographically isolated by the Caucasus and receives almost all its supplies by rail across Azerbaijan from the east. The railroad west through Georgia carried very little because of the difficult terrain.

The Armenian earthquake of 1988, ethnic troubles and strikes have all contributed to the weakening of the Armenian — and Soviet — economy. The region is a centre for the production of chemicals, automobiles, motor tyres, farm machinery, electronics and lifts.

Armenia depends totally upon imported fuel and imports much of its staple food — milk, meat, sugar, butter and fish.

The Azerbaijanis and Armenians have been locked in ethnic disputes and violence for more than two years. About 24,000 Soviet Red Army and Interior Ministry special troops were sent into Azerbaijan ten days ago to halt spiralling bloodshed but ran

immediately into violent resistance from militants of the secessionist Azerbaijan Popular Front.

In the Azerbaijani capital of Baku today, Tass said there was shooting overnight between troops and civilians but no one appeared hurt. The Izvestia newspaper said the situation was still tense and most factories were not working and transport was sporadic.

The agency said leaflets urging strikes to protest the Soviet occupation "were being circulated."

"These irresponsible calls are leading to a new spiral of passions and are directed at heightening tension," the military commandant of Baku, Vladimir Dubynak said in a statement today.

Tass reported Armenia, Azerbaijan and the enclaves of Nagorno-Karabakh mostly quiet today but said one man died and two others were wounded in Yerevan in an exchange of fire as soldiers tried to repossess a stolen armoured car from civilians.

Soviet troops continued searching villages, towns and cities in the region, especially in Azerbaijan, for weapons and arresting nationalist activists.

The Soviet authorities clamped a curfew on Baku but it was eased yesterday. At least 125 people died in violence in the city in the last ten days — nearly 30 of them Soviet soldiers.

Wheelchair-man killed by train

ALBANY, New York, Jan 29, (AP): A passenger train travelling at 100 miles (160 kilometres) per hour struck and killed a man whose motorised wheelchair had become stuck between the rails, authorities said.

Twenty-five-year-old Grayford John Mesick was watching a tow truck remove his friends' pickup truck from muddy fields below the tracks when the New York-to-Montreal train rounded a corner, said Schodack fire chief Edward Secovine.

The accident occurred on Saturday afternoon about 9 miles (15 kilometres) south of Albany, said Michael Stewart, spokesman for the Amtrak National Rail Service.

Stewart said the engineer spotted Mesick, blew his horn and flashed his lights before hitting the brakes, but the six-car train took nearly a mile (two kilometres) to stop.

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Indian troops leave Jaffna

COLOMBO, Jan 29, (AP): Indian troops have pulled out of Jaffna, leaving the northern town to the Tamil Tiger guerrillas they fought for more than two years, residents and officials said yesterday.

The Indian troops, who are scheduled to complete their withdrawal from Sri Lanka by the end of March, evacuated Jaffna late Saturday and moved camp at an airfield and coastal villages about 16 kms (10 miles) away, residents said by telephone.

The unannounced evacuation caught many people by surprise when they woke up Sunday morning and realised the Indian troops were gone.

"These irresponsible calls are leading to a new spiral of passions and are directed at heightening tension," the military commandant of Baku, Vladimir Dubynak said in a statement today.

Tass reported Armenia, Azerbaijan and the enclaves of Nagorno-Karabakh mostly quiet today but said one man died and two others were wounded in Yerevan in an exchange of fire as soldiers tried to repossess a stolen armoured car from civilians.

Soviet troops continued searching villages, towns and cities in the region, especially in Azerbaijan, for weapons and arresting nationalist activists.

The Soviet authorities clamped a curfew on Baku but it was eased yesterday. At least 125 people died in violence in the city in the last ten days — nearly 30 of them Soviet soldiers.

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Indonesia flood toll rises

The death count from floods and accompanying landslides in central Java reached 177 yesterday as a government official blamed the high toll on poor building practices and an inadequate warning system.

The toll grew as rescue officials recovered more bodies from mud and debris in Semarang, about 250 miles (400

km) east of Jakarta, where the flooding began early Friday morning with the overflows of Banjir Kanal and Kali Garang rivers, the official news agency Antara said.

A man collecting his belongings from his home, destroyed by floods, in Semarang. (Reuters wirephoto)

Misuari denies killings

Election chief's car set ablaze

Filipino tribes vote

JEDDAH, Jan 29, (AP): Filipino Muslim rebel leader Nur Misuari today denied claims by the Manila government that the Muslims in the Mindanao region were killing Christians.

Misuari, head of the Moro National Liberation Front, charged that reports to this effect were being circulated by Manila as part of "a naked policy of divide and rule."

"Muslims and Christians are wise and will not allow the government propaganda to succeed," said Misuari in a telephone interview with the Associated Press during his current visit to Saudi Arabia.

Misuari often spends time in the Saudi port city of Jeddah where the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference is headquartered. The OIC has played a key role in trying to arrange a peaceful settlement between the government of Corazon Aquino and the rebels.

They have been waging a guerrilla war for almost two decades in quest of autonomy in 13 provinces of the southern Philippines region of the Mindanao that they consider Muslim-dominated.

Brig. Gen. Orlando Soriano, regional commander of north Cotabato province in the Mindanao, announced over the weekend that about 1,000 Muslim rebels attacked six predominantly Christian villages, and that at least one person was killed and thousands of residents forced to flee.

But Misuari charged that the government forces provoked the fire and said: "The blood of innocent Christians civilians is

BAGUIO, Philippines, Jan 29, (Reuters): Unidentified men set fire to the car of a Philippine election official today just before tribal voters in the Cordillera mountains north of Manila were due to vote on a government autonomy plan.

The car of Felimon Asperin, the Election Commission chief in the northern provinces of the Philippine island of Luzon, exploded after the attackers set fire to its petrol tank, police said. No one was hurt.

No group has claimed responsibility, but Asperin said he believed voting on Tuesday on an autonomy plan drafted by the government for mountain tribes in the area prompted the attack.

It was the second violent incident to mar the run-up to the voting. The son of Congressman William Claver in nearby Kalinga-Apayao province and two other people were killed on Jan 22 in an ambush after campaigning for approval of the autonomy in the area.

More than 500,000 people were registered to vote in the plebiscite in five provinces and a city in the mineral-rich Cordillera mountains. Two major tribes oppose the autonomy plan.

A group led by Conrado Balweg, a former priest and communist rebel commander, is campaigning against the plan.

secret to us. We are not killing the Christians but it is the government forces who are doing so."

"In fact," he added, "we are in alliance with the Christian organisation Mindanao Independence Movement and if any Christians were killed, it was because of the fighting provoked by the government forces."

Misuari, who saw no prospect of short-term peace, said fighting has escalated in various parts of the Mindanao. "Fighting broke out in Cotabato, Lanao, Basilan and other provinces. It has even reached Bukidnon, which is outside the 13 Muslim-dominated provinces," he said.

Opinion divided on offer by cartel

BOGOTA, Jan. 29, (AP): Colombian President Virgilio Barco is sending mixed signals in response to peace overtures by the Medellín cocaine cartel, a policy some view as a deliberate tactic.

While some see Barco's responses as evidence he is ready to negotiate, others say the president is trying to lure the drug traders into unilateral concessions while pressing forward with his campaign to defeat them.

"Barco is purposefully being as enigmatic as possible in order to raise the hopes of the traffickers, who are desperate at this point," said Maria Elvira Samper, managing editor of the Colombian weekly magazine Semana.

She added, "he wants to see what they will give up voluntarily."

The traffickers, however, have no intention of surrendering, but are merely trying to gain support and sympathy among Colombians, she said.

Defeated
On Jan. 17, the cartel said it had been defeated by a 5-month-old crackdown in which authorities extradited 13 suspects to the United States, killed a major trafficker in a gun battle and confiscated hundreds of properties.

The cartel offered to abandon the cocaine trade and lay down arms in exchange for constitutional and legal protections. It did not specify any assurances, but an end to extradition has always led its list of demands.

The traffickers had resisted the government crackdown with a terror campaign of bombings and other terrorist violence that has killed 209 people.

But they said in their communiqué that they were calling a unilateral ceasefire and would release all of their hostages.

Since then, there have been no terrorist bombings, and traffickers have freed five of their 21 captives.

Barco said the cartel's offer had created a new situation and that the law "offered alternatives" for addressing the issue.

The president expressed a willingness for flexibility in connection with his drug policy, writing in a letter to the newspaper El Tiempo, two days after the traffickers' offer.

On another occasion, church and political leaders published an open letter Jan. 15 proposing "less rigorous treatment" of the traffickers only if they ended their terror campaign.

Barco called the statement a patriotic act.

With such statements issued from the president's office, some have criticised Barco as a weak and blundering politician, easily manipulated by certain advisers.

Concern
This camp has often expressed concern that Barco may be swayed by certain aides who feel a dialogue with the traffickers is politically advisable.

Another group, including the editor Samper, view Barco as a determined and savvy president, who uses vague pronouncements to walk a tightrope between officials who deal with drug lords and those who oppose any dialogue.

"He may hint that he is open to negotiations to placate some of the people close to him," Samper said.

She contended that Barco will fight the drug traffickers until the end of his rule in August, resorting to every weapon in his arsenal, including extradition.

Those Colombians like Samper who believe the president has no intention of abandoning extradition point to repeated declarations by Interior Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds that the policy is non-negotiable.

Drug flow to increase

BANGKOK, Jan. 29, (Reuters): Thai narcotics experts said today they expected a wave of illicit heroin to flow from the Golden Triangle this year after bumper harvests of opium poppy in 1989.

But they said efforts by security forces to block routes across Thailand would push more of the smugglers into using less direct ways through India, China and Vietnam to the lucrative North American and European markets.

Although estimates of the secret production are vague, an official of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) said the 1989 opium production to be up to 2,200 tonnes.

This was just over double the total estimated for 1988, before internal strife in Burma diverted the attention of the security forces away from anti-narcotic work.



Castro gestures during the workers' congress. (Reuters wirephoto)

Castro holds firm to communist line

'No liberalisation even if we lose Soviet aid'

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 29, (AP): Cuban President Fidel Castro, in a major statement on the reforms sweeping the East bloc, said his nation will adhere to Communism even if the Soviet Union cuts off all support.

"The Yanks are euphoric because they believe we will be isolated and cannot resist. There are even some who have virtually extended condolences because they believe the revolution will not survive the changes in the Socialist bloc," Castro was quoted as saying in the speech Sunday.

Castro also said he would accept no political liberalisation, rejecting a petition for recognition from an opposition party.

"The revolution will not back down one millimetre, not even if it is totally blocked by the United States or if the Soviet Union totally cuts its supplies," said Castro.

"We have prepared ourselves to engage in the struggle by all the people in defense of socialism," he said, warning that Cubans may have to tighten their belts and live "at peace but under a wartime economy."

It was the first time Castro had suggested that the Soviet Union may be cutting down on aid that has subsidised his revolution. For instance, virtually all of Cuba's crude oil comes from the Soviet Union.

"It will not be here the history of other countries will be able to repeat itself, and those who want to play at counterrevolution are going to have to face the people," said Castro in reference to the overthrow of governments in Eastern Europe.

Castro, who seized power 31 years ago after ousting dictator Fulgencio Batista, has resisted urgings from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and others to liberalise his government.

His power base was narrowed last year when several high-ranking military and security officers were executed in a drug smuggling scandal that forced him to reorganise his cabinet and Cuba's security apparatus.

The United States imposed a trade and financial embargo on Cuba more than 20 years ago, accusing the island nation's government of inciting violent revolution in other nations.

At the close of his speech, delegates chorused the traditional Cuban revolution slogan: "Socialism or death, fatherland or death, we shall vanquish."

Castro also confirmed reports that his government had rejected a petition from the Miami-based leadership of the Christian Democratic Party to be given legal status and allowed to take part in politics.

"The secret of Cuban resistance in these 30 years of revolution has been the unity of the government, the people and the party, and a multi-party system would only result in internal weakening," Castro was quoted as saying.

Castro said Latin America is "very worried by the situation Cuba faces, because they know that if the revolution falls it would drag down with it the independence and liberty of these nations against the advance of imperialism."

SANTA CRUZ, Bolivia, Jan. 29, (AP): Local drug traffickers are loosening their ties to the powerful but besieged Colombian cartels and are refining and smuggling more cocaine on their own, according to anti-narcotics officials.

The Colombians, caught up in a bloody war on drugs launched by that country's government, are reportedly becoming bad business partners. Since late August, when the Colombian offensive began, they often have failed to show up for deals and to make promised payments for wholesale purchases from Bolivian sellers, the officials say.

"We don't want fifth columns to be created here at a time when everything is at stake," Castro was quoted as saying. He said Cuba must resist US "imperialism" for the sake of all Latin America.

The Cuban news agency Prensa Latina and the Mexican news agency Notimex filed dispatches from Havana that were monitored in Mexico City. Neither agency provided a text of the three-hour address to 2,500 delegates at the annual congress of Cuba's labour federation.

Castro said he understood that internal problems were leading the Soviets to cut back on their \$5 billion annual aid to Cuba.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Caution needed in troop cuts: Panamanian President Guillermo Endara told US Vice President Dan Quayle on Sunday that he backs a cut in American combat troops but warned that his own forces cannot keep public order at present.

Quayle met with Endara and other Panamanian leaders for talks on economic relief efforts and the need to reduce US troop levels to gain wider support for the new government, installed during the December 20 American invasion.

The invasion ousted military leader Manuel Antonio Noriega, who is now facing trial in the United States on drug charges. (Reuters)

10-year-old trafficker held: A 10-year-old boy was arrested on drug charges in New Haven, Connecticut after he was found carrying 10 packets of marijuana at school, police said.



ANC funeral

About 3,000 blacks attended the funeral of 16-year-old Mbughele Phil yesterday, one of the youths shot and killed by police ten days ago in rioting near the South African mining town of Carletonville. Youths in paramilitary uniforms of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) salute the coffin draped by an ANC flag. (Reuters wirephoto)

Anti-drug summit

Strict security set

BOGOTA, Jan. 29, (Reuters): About 5,000 Colombian and US security agents will be protecting the presidents of the United States, Colombia, Bolivia and possibly Peru in February's anti-drug summit set for Cartagena, Colombia, a Bogota newspaper reported yesterday.

According to the daily El Tiempo, US security officials have been arriving in Cartagena, a city on Colombia's Caribbean Coast about 670 km (415 miles) north of Bogota, during the past several weeks.

The possibility that drug traffickers may carry out an attack against President George Bush during his stay in Cartagena has been a central concern among the US intelligence community.

Last week CBS television, citing unnamed sources, reported that Colombian drug lords had obtained SA-7 surface-to-air missiles which could be used against the presidential plane Air Force One as it approaches Colombia.

Both US and Colombian officials have since said they have no information on such a plan, and say Bush's security can be guaranteed.

Police said the principal of Sacred Heart School called Wednesday to report that a student had been caught carrying the drug.

Officers from the department's youth division arrested the boy and charged him with possession of narcotics with intent to sell.

The boy, who was turned over to juvenile authorities, told police that he got the marijuana from a relative and would sell it for \$5 or \$10 a bag, officers said. (AP)

Public vote-counting demanded: Opposition presidential candidate Violeta Barrios de Chamorro has called for a public vote count in next month's elections, saying she fears the Sandinista government is planning to cheat.

Mrs Chamorro made the demand during a speech Saturday night at an election rally of about 10,000 of her United National Opposition supporters in the northern town of Esteli.

"The counting must be done publicly," she told UNO's largest rally of the campaign. "It is a demand by UNO, so the Sandinistas don't commit fraud."

The government claims the 14-party UNO coalition backed by the United States is preparing to call the elections fraudulent if it loses, and eventually would invite a US invasion similar to December's assault on Panama. (AP)

Peruvian rebels kill top official: Maoist guerrillas gunned down the head of a regional development agency on Sunday, the ninth killing by guerrillas in Peru's southern Andean province of Ayacucho in six days, police said.

Shining Path guerrillas burst into the home of Tomas Evangelista Carranza, government-appointed manager of the Ayacucho Development Corp, and killed him with two shots to the head, police said.

The state-owned corporation finances projects including roads, dams and rural electrification, all of which Shining Path has tried to sabotage as part of its 10-year-old war to overthrow the government. (Reuters)

Noriega has been shifted

MIAMI, Jan. 29, (AP): Deposed Panamanian leader Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega has been transferred from the federal courthouse to a federal prison south of Miami, the warden said.

Noriega, who faces US drug charges, has been held in an underground facility at the courthouse in downtown Miami since being brought to the United States on Jan. 4 following the US invasion of his country.

"General Noriega was admitted to this facility shortly after 7 pm," warden Stephen Pontesso said yesterday after Noriega was moved to the medium-security Metropolitan Correctional Centre 25 miles (40 kilometres) south of Miami.

Pontesso refused to give details of Noriega's quarters and merely described it as "a cell."

Pope stress on dialogue

Help Sahel appeal

OUAGADOUGOU, Jan. 29, (Agencies): Pope John Paul II arrived in Burkina Faso today to help celebrate the 10th anniversary of his appeal for help for the drought-ridden Sahel region of continental Africa.

Burkina President Capt. Blaise Compaore greeted the Pope at Ouagadougou airport upon his arrival from Bamako, Mali, at 10.30 am (1030 GMT).

The government of Burkina Faso, which changed its name from Upper Volta in 1984, declared a national holiday today to mark the visit. Tens of thousands of people lined the streets leading to the airport, which was closed to the public for security reasons.

Organisers of the visit to Burkina Faso, the fourth stop of the Pope's tour of famine-stricken nations in west and central Africa, said the highlight was likely to be the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of John Paul's appeal for the Sahel region.

Thanks
The appeal, made in Ouagadougou on May 10, 1980, led to the formation of the John Paul II foundation, which has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in the drought-ridden region.

Upon his departure from predominantly Muslim Mali this morning, the pontiff praised "the climate of dialogue and healthy conviviality that reigns among the members of the different religions."

"Let me encourage you on the path of dialogue among believers, so that Mali citizens of all confessions get to know and appreciate one another better."

Mali President Moussa Traore, who issued 216 pardons to mark the Pope's visit, greeted John Paul on his arrival Sunday, calling his presence "an act of faith" reflecting a "determination to bring the people of the planet together." Traore thanked John Paul for supporting the "millions of people" who have suffered "through years" of drought and economic crises.

Battle
The Pope said, "the country needs the efforts of everyone in the great battle against famine, malnutrition and illiteracy, not to mention the other great battle you fight against drought."

The Pope told the crowd at the airport that he wanted "to meet the faithful from other religions" during his visit. "I do so in a spirit of dialogue, while I am pleased by the harmonious relations between traditional African religions and Christians," he said.

About 80 per cent of Mali's population is Muslim compared with only about five per cent Catholic and 10 per cent of traditional African religions.

At a luncheon with the Mali bishops conference, the Pope urged representatives of the

Catholic church to promote dialogue with Muslims.

"Dialogue embraces Muslims — important interlocutors because of the multiple dimensions of Islam and the deep roots that it has put down in numerous African people," John Paul told the bishops. "Muslims are bearers of authentic religious values, which it is our task to recognise."

Difficult
"Of course, dialogue is not always easy with (Muslims), or is it sought by all," the pontiff added. "At times, it is difficult to find a common language and representative interlocutors. In dialogue with those who adhere to traditional African religions, we ought to encourage benevolent attention to the values they profess."

"I rejoice that a climate of understanding reigns between the Muslim and Catholic communities in Mali," the Pope said in his homily during a mass at Bamako's soccer stadium. "Dialogue between Muslims and Christians is more necessary than ever."

The mass, attended by 15,000 Christians and 10,000 Muslims, was the latest stop of the Pope's eight-day, five-nation tour of sub-Saharan Africa.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro said he had never seen as many Muslims at a papal mass.

As the Pope toured the stadium in an open Mercedes, both Muslims and Catholics stood, waved and cheered.

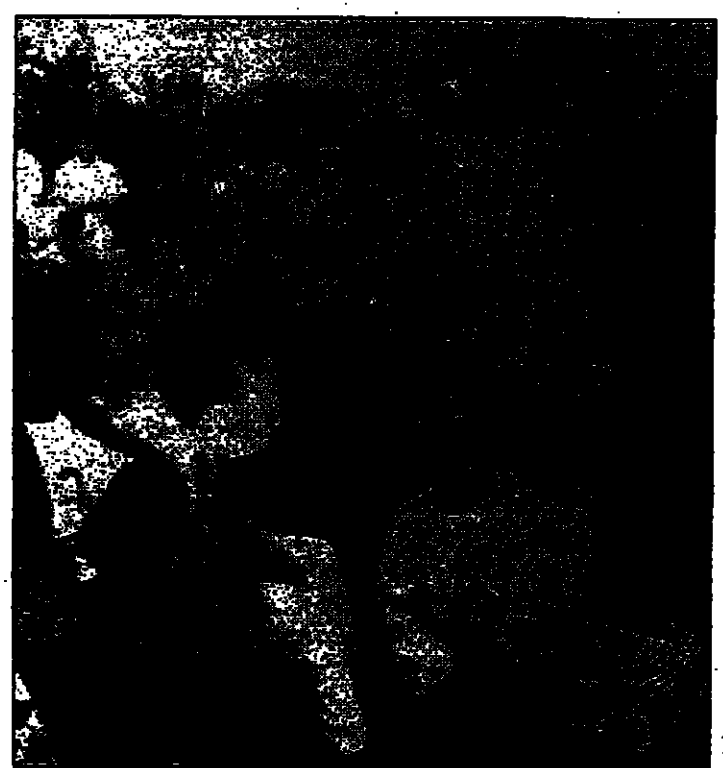
Friendship
"I hope that the dialogue between Muslims and Catholics improves even more and favours constructive co-operation," John Paul said. "The ties of friendship between the two communities are a guarantee ... of the necessary harmony so that everyone can confront the country's problems together."

Prayer
In a second meeting with the people of Mali, the Pope asked a crowd of thousands in the square outside the Cathedral of Bamako to join him in prayer for the victims of the crash of an Avianca jetliner in New York last week and those who died during winter storms in northern Europe.

Earlier, the Pope visited the Cumura leper colony about 6 miles (10 km) outside of Bissau, capital of the West African state of Guinea-Bissau.

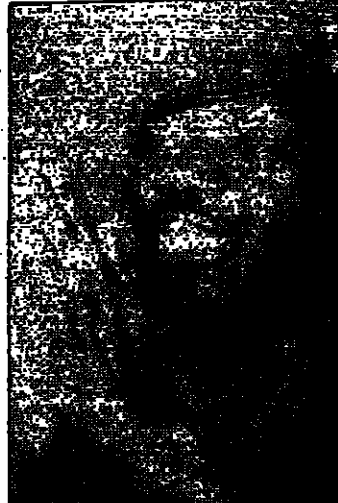
"The statistics on the frequency of the disease, when compared with the relatively limited cost of the resources needed to eliminate it completely, must be considered a scandal for the international community," the pontiff told members of the leper colony.

The colony, founded by the Portuguese in 1952, treats about 500 lepers annually and has a staff of about 100, including many religious volunteers.



Pope greets lepers

Pope John Paul greets lepers on a visit yesterday to the Cumura hospital in Guinea Bissau, one of Africa's leading leprosy hospitals. During the visit the Pope called for international aid to wipe out the disease which afflicts about 15 million people world-wide. (Reuters wirephoto)



Savimbi at a news conference. (Reuters wirephoto)

Savimbi seeks Santos meeting

LISBON, Jan. 29, (Reuters): Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi called today on Marxist President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos to meet him face-to-face to try to end the 15-year-old civil war.

"It is very important for us to have this meeting, first of all to get to know each other, for we don't know each other well," he told reporters in Lisbon.

The two men met before African mediators in Zaire last June. But the two sides disagreed later about what had been agreed and the fighting has continued unabated.

The Zaire meeting enhanced Savimbi's diplomatic stature, encouraging Portugal, the former colonial power, to receive him for the first time since 1975.

The 55-year-old UNITA leader arrived on Saturday for an eight-day visit. He said he would go on to Belgium, West Germany, Switzerland and possibly France.

The Cuban-backed government in Luanda denounced the visit today as the culmination of a vast publicity campaign by Portuguese conservatives.

A commentary by the official news agency Agop, monitored in Lisbon, pointedly expressed the hope that the visit would not harm Luanda's relations with the Portuguese government.

Dos Santos said earlier this month that he had no objection to Savimbi's visit as it was a private one.

The rebel leader has met President Mario Soares and Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva. The latter stressed that he received Savimbi in his capacity as leader of the ruling Social Democratic Party, not as head of government.

Cuba suspended the half-completed withdrawal of its 50,000 troops last week after four of them were killed in a UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) attack.

Haitians fear reign of terror

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Jan. 29, (AP): Haitians were outraged in 1988 when state-sanctioned thugs beat a priest and killed 13 of his congregation. A coup ousted the ruling general and installed Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril as president.

Avril promised to end state-sponsored violence and establish real democracy in Haiti for the first time in its 186-year history.

Now, 16 months later, many Haitians are wondering whether Avril is leading them back into the morass of corruption, repression and fear they knew under his predecessor, the ousted Lt. Gen. Henri Namphy, and during the 29-year reign of Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier and his son and successor, Jean-Claude "Baby Doc."

Over the past two weeks, soldiers have reportedly rounded up, arrested and brutalised a dozen political activists and forced at least seven into exile.

Declaring a 30-day "state of siege," Avril suspended four articles of the constitution and then imposed censorship on television and radio stations, the main source of news in a nation where 85 per cent of the population is illiterate.

The military government declared the state of siege Jan. 20, one day after gunmen killed an army colonel, his wife and their maid.

The clampdown, Avril said, was necessary "to protect democratic accomplishments against terrorism," implying that enemies of the government carried out the assassination.

Skeptics saw it, however, as a pretext for Avril to consolidate his power and reverse on his promise to hold legitimate elections in October.

"The government will now either show its teeth and demonstrate there will be no elections or have elections without the opposition's participation, with controlled candidates," said Paul Latortue, a Haitian economist at the University of Puerto Rico.

Mandela could resume armed struggle

Government considering relaxing three-year-old state of emergency

CAPE TOWN, Jan 29, (Reuters): Nelson Mandela would pick up the fight against white rule as commander of the African National Congress (ANC) military wing, if South Africa's government did not meet his conditions for release, a lawyer said today.

Veteran Cape Town activist and lawyer Dullah Omar visits Mandela regularly in his prison-farm bungalow northeast of Cape Town.

"Mandela says there is no point in releasing him if the ANC and other opposition groups remain banned, if the state of emergency remains in place and if political prisoners have not been released," Omar told Reuters.

"He has said in that event he would...pick up where he left off when he was arrested in 1962. At that time he was the commander in chief of Umkhonto We Sizwe (the ANC's armed wing, Spear of

The Nation)."

Omar spoke amid growing doubts that President F.W. de Klerk will live up to the high world-wide expectations for his crucial opening address to parliament on Friday.

De Klerk is expected to outline his political agenda in the speech, which is likely to be the most important since he took office in September and vowed to create a new South Africa with equal rights and opportunities for all.

Omar said Mandela, 71, had never spoken to him of armed struggle but had regularly spoken about picking up where he left off in 1962.

Mandela's wife Winnie said after visiting him on Saturday that the government was dragging its feet and it was too late for De Klerk to meet his demands before Friday.

"We are now talking about exerting pressure on the government and we thought we were past that stage," she said.

Cheryl Carolus, another Cape Town activist who has met Mandela in prison, said it was essential that Mandela should be able to operate freely and legally after his release.

"His freedom is inextricably bound up with the freedom of his people and his movement. It would be foolish to release him into a situation where he cannot take up his rightful place as leader of the ANC," she said.

De Klerk has promised to free Mandela soon from his life sentence for plotting against white rule but he has not set a date and he has not commented publicly on the conditions.

He is widely expected to meet some, though not

all, of Mandela's demands when he addresses parliament on Friday and he could free Mandela by the end of February.

Government sources said today De Klerk was considering relaxing three-year-old state of emergency regulations and lifting bans on 34 anti-apartheid organisations, but not the immediate repeal of the 30-year-old ban on the ANC.

The sources said the cabinet would finalise the details of the speech and might set a firm date for Mandela's release when it met on Wednesday. They said De Klerk was unlikely to make the release date public.

Scores of reporters have arrived in South Africa to cover De Klerk's address, expecting him to make possibly the biggest concessions ever to the country's voiceless black majority.

Cambodia civil war escalates

Khmer remains brutal

KOMPONG SPEU, Cambodia, Jan 29, (UPI): Saw Soen lay on a bare wooden pallet, her bullet-shattered leg in a sling, explaining how a Khmer Rouge guerrilla band surrounded a group of villagers collecting firewood.

"There was no warning. They said nothing. The (Khmer Rouge leader) Pol Pot troops just came and shot at us. Three of my friends were killed and four of us were wounded," she said.

Saw Soen said the Khmer Rouge may have opened fire because the villagers have been reluctant to support the Khmer Rouge — widely hated because of their brutal years in power from 1975-1979.

The 38-year-old villager stoically answered questions about the shooting, but when asked about her six children, her voice quavered.

"They have to stay in the village. I don't know what will happen to them," she cried and broke down in sobs.

Like thousands of others, Saw Soen is the victim of a conflict that has dragged on for 11 years and now is getting worse.

Vietnam announced the withdrawal of its last troops from Cambodia in September in response to Western pressure, but also with hopes the government installed in Phnom Penh in 1979 survive without the Vietnamese Army.

Offensive

The three-party resistance coalition quickly launched an offensive that captured a 200-mile strip of territory along the Thai-Cambodian border and sent guerrilla forces deeper into the heart of the country.

At first the government denied its losses and tried to reclaim the lost territory, but this month admitted problems.

"Since Sept. 30, 1989 the enemies have launched adventurous large-scale attacks," Defence Minister Gen. Tie Ban said in an interview broadcast on television. He named a series of towns near the Thai border that had fallen to the resistance.

He admitted his forces were not able to repel the offensive.

Prime Minister Hun Sen called for increased military recruitment to face the mounting threat.

A series of bomb explosions in the capital and a Khmer Rouge attack on Battambang, the country's second largest city, added to the sense of deterioration in the government position.

"The resistance, particularly the two non-communist groups, have done better than expected," said a Western diplomat in Bangkok, Thailand. "Or maybe the Hun Sen forces are just weaker than we thought."

Intelligence sources put the government army at only about 50,000 men with another 100,000 to 150,000 in the ill-trained militia. Opposing them are about 60,000-70,000 resistance troops — about half from the tough and brutal Khmer Rouge.

In Phnom Penh, Khieu Kanharith, National Assembly Member and editor of the state-owned newspaper Kampuchea, said the government has to be careful to preserve its few trained troops and limited military supplies.

"This is a war of the poor. So if



Guarding

A young Cambodian stands guard at one of the Angkor Wat temples. (Reuters wirephoto)

we strike we must be sure to inflict heavy damage, not just chase them back to Thailand for a while," he said.

He said the Soviet Union had halted its supply of arms and military supplies, but the government had sufficient stores for the present level of fighting. The resistance, however, reported a November shipment of Soviet armoured personnel carriers.

"When you launch an offensive you have to spend material and lives. It is better to let them launch the attacks deeper into the country, farther from their supply lines, and for us to make them spend more of their soldiers," Khieu Kanharith said.

The resistance, long pinned to the border by the Vietnamese Army, has sharply increased its penetration of the interior on missions that are more political than military.

Phnom Penh government officials acknowledge that the troops of the two non-communist forces are more popular and less feared than the Khmer Rouge.

"They distribute medicine and propaganda. People still remember the good old days under (Prince Norodom) Sihanouk and they try to take advantage of that," said an official in Siem Reap, 140 miles (225 km) northwest of Phnom Penh.

The Khmer Rouge have tried to overcome their brutal image by paying good prices for supplies and by appealing to Cambodian patriotism to oppose the Vietnamese-installed government and the Vietnamese troops they insist have remained behind disguised as Cambodians.

Tep Mean, 44, member of Kompong Speu people's committee, said the Khmer Rouge have not abandoned their old ways.

Police seize explosives

Tokyo radical held

TOKYO, Jan 29, (AP): Police said they seized eight home-made bombs and explosives and arrested a radical worker in a raid on an apartment in Oniya, 28 kilometres (17 miles) north of Tokyo.

Police said the man, Hideki Hojo, 38, is a making member of the Revolutionary Workers' Association, a leftist group opposed to the emperor system.

Hojo was arrested on charges of allegedly falsifying documents, using his position as a part-time worker with a bookbinding firm, police said.

Police said the explosives included about 5 kilograms (11 pounds) of sodium chlorate, a chemical used in making bombs.

The radical group, whose membership is believed to be in the hundreds, is suspected in several incidents of sabotage last year, including an explosion during the late

emperor's funeral.

On Feb. 24, 1989, a blast occurred on a highway in Tokyo about 20 minutes before a motorcade carrying the imperial family and other mourners was due to pass. No injuries were reported although the blast scattered mud and concrete debris on the pavement.

Police said they carried out a pre-dawn raid on an apartment in Oniya in the northern suburb of Tokyo and seized 23 finished and unfinished steel pipe bombs with timing devices, one hand-gun and 11 pounds (5 kg) of chemicals used for the manufacture of explosives.

Police said other terrorist groups have vowed to obstruct the enthronement ceremony for Akihito.

Today's raid followed a series of terror attacks by radicals this month.



Moon protests

Moon Dong-hwan, vice-president of an opposition party now isolated by a planned merger among the other three parties in South Korea, handed out newspapers criticising the new conservative alliance to lunar New Year holidaymakers at the Seoul Station recently. Moon's party, led by veteran politician Kim Dae-jung, has pledged to oppose the merger, which it calls anti-democratic. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fight, says Kim

Seoul merger 'a coup d'etat'

SEOUL, Jan 29, (AP): Leading oppositionist Kim Dae-jung urged "democratic" forces today to join his party in a fight against the planned merger of the ruling party and two other parties.

Kim, the leader of the Party for Peace and Democracy, denounced the plan of the ruling Democratic Justice Party to merge with the second- and third-ranked opposition groups, calling it a "coup d'etat."

"In a single day, the ruling party, which had not even a majority, suddenly became three-quarters of the national assembly. This is a situation which makes total dictatorship possible," he said.

The plan to merge later this month would give a new ruling party about 220 seats in the 299-seat, single-house legislature, against 71 seats for Kim Dae-jung's No. 1 opposition party. The Democratic Justice Party of President Roh Tae-woo currently holds 127 seats.

The two other parties in the planned merger are the No. 2 opposition group, the Reunification Democratic Party, headed by Kim Young-sam, and No. 3 opposition New Democratic Republican Party, led by Kim Jong-pil.

Speaking at the foreign correspondents club, Kim said his party "will welcome all moderate, democratic political forces and will try to be the people's party."

Kim Dae-jung said that if the parties insist on merging and changing the constitution to introduce a cabinet system by a prime minister in place of the presidential system, the present assembly must be dissolved for an election to seek the people's will on the changes.

"There is no precedent in our nation's political history for such an infamous and traitorous action," Kim said.

Liberian soldiers hunt down rebels, people flee

SANNIQUELLE, Liberia, Jan 29, (UPI): Fighting and fear spread in northeastern Liberia over the weekend as government troops continued to hunt down rebels and villagers complained of atrocities allegedly committed by the troops.

More than 70,000 people are reported to have fled the unrest into neighbouring countries.

On Friday the mutilated bodies of three supposed rebels were dumped by soldiers along a track just outside Sanniquelle.

The decomposing bodies, one with a deep gash to the top of the head and his stomach torn open, bore the three parallel cuts on the shoulder which have come to identify members of the 200-strong rebel force.

The scars, however, appeared to be relatively recent, and there was much doubt in the town as to whether the men were members of the force which launched the

attempted coup d'etat on Dec. 24.

Some local residents claimed that at least one of the men worked for a transportation company in the town.

Soldiers invited villagers to see the bodies on Friday as part of a campaign to gain public confidence in the army.

Public support for the armed forces among the Gio Tribe, which dominates the Nimba area, has disappeared following harassment of Gio by army personnel, who are largely drawn from the Krahn tribe of President Samuel Doe who took power in a violent 1980 coup.

In the past week, reports of serious army misconduct have surfaced. A 12-hour curfew, from 6 pm to 6 am, in Nimba was imposed on Jan. 1 during the hours of curfew, troops are reported to have demanded food, money and sex from civilians.

Exxon 'spill' captain faces trial

Exxon 'spill' captain faces trial

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Jan 29, (AP): Joseph Hazelwood's lawyers are trying again to have his failed sobriety test prohibited as evidence in the fired Exxon captain's trial on charges stemming from the nation's worst oil spill.

Defence lawyers also are challenging the state's jurisdiction in the case against Hazelwood, whose Exxon Valdez struck a reef March 24, spilling hundreds of miles (kilometres) of shoreline with more than 10 million gallons (42 million litres) of crude oil.

Anchorage superior court judge Karl Johnston planned to review the defence motions today. Jury selection is scheduled to start later this week for a trial expected to last at least six weeks.

Lawyers for Hazelwood submitted the motions recently after losing earlier efforts to have charges thrown out of various courts, including Johnston's. There are new twists in the analyses behind the latest motions, but the objectives were essentially the same as in the earlier requests.

The 43-year-old captain said he looked forward to arguing that the spill was a "tragic accident," not a criminal act. "I'd like to get rid of the misconception that I got drunk, ran the ship aground, and just shrugged my shoulders and walked away — because that's just not what happened," Hazelwood said in an interview with the Associated Press last week in his New York lawyer's office.

Hazelwood, who was not on the bridge when the accident occurred, failed a blood-alcohol test 10 hours after the Exxon Valdez struck Bligh reef in Prince William sound.

Rock star Cui storms China

Speaking for the youth

BEIJING, Jan 29, (AP): A roar went up as China's No. 1 and only rock 'n' roll singer, Cui Jian, bounded on the stage last night.

The band grinded into heavy metal high gear. Coloured strobes blinked wildly. Fans waved their arms for Cui's first concert in nearly a year, and the first rock event since the political crackdown last June.

It was about as crazy as a crowd in communist China can get, and hundreds of police were there to make sure it didn't get any crazier.

Uniformed police occupied the entire front row in the Beijing workers' gymnasium, sitting stoically while dozens more uniformed and plainclothes police patrolled the aisles and ordered stray fans back to their seats.

But that didn't stop the nearly 10,000 fans, most in their teens and 20s, from jumping up and down in place and waving posters of the 28-year-old singer in synchopation to his songs about love and youthful alienation.

"I want to leave... I want to die and start all over again," Cui sang, as much of the crowd joined in.

"In today's society, youths are looking for someone to speak for them," said a college student who spent the entire two-hour concert bopping, singing and stabbing the air with his fists. "Look around, most everyone here is young. He speaks for our dissatisfaction."

"His songs are the songs of our generation. We all have nothing," said another student, referring to Cui's first hit and most famous song, "I Have Nothing."

"The words are great: 'In the past I asked constantly, when will you go with me? But you always laughed at me. I have nothing,'" the student recited, breathless and a little hoarse from cheering.

Authorities remain suspicious of rock music, which they openly condemned in the early 1980s as over-stimulating and too sexually charged. Cui's career has been a rocky one, including long periods when he was not allowed to perform.

Police dragged him off stage at a 1988 concert, yelling at him for "provoking chaos," according to an official report.

No such incident occurred yesterday, although police stopped a group of students carrying signs from streaming into the aisle. Their signs proclaimed, "Cui Jian — China's No. 1 rock and roller," and identified them as the "economics institute fan club."

A plainclothes member of the people's armed police, China's paramilitary force, stood by scowling.

"I don't like his music," he said. "I don't like the way he sings it. I like someone like Fei Xiang," a Taiwanese-American pop singer who recently toured China.

Veteran soldiers reportedly are offended by Cui's rock rendition of the 1940s classic "Nan Ni Wan," about communist land reform, and by his recent hit "Rock 'n' Roll For the New Long March," which compares the search for self with the Red Army's epic march during the revolutionary war.

Mystery over missing 'Voice of Islam' founder

PARIS, Jan 29, (KUNA): The founder of the small fundamentalist "Voice of Islam" group, Abul-Farid Gabteni, is reported to be missing since last Friday afternoon, when he was last seen getting into a car with his wife and a man, who had claimed he was from the police.

According to the leader of the "Voice of Islam," Dr Myriam Mojon, who was with the Gabteni couple and two other members of the group that afternoon, driving to Paris, a second car stopped them and a man came out, showed a policeman card and asked Gabteni to follow him.

Mrs Gabteni wanted to go with her husband and they both got into the waiting car with two other men inside, she said.

Since then, nobody seems to have seen the couple or

LDP's revival seen in polls

TOKYO, Jan 29, (AP): Two opinion surveys indicated today that the scandal-shaken ruling party has made gains since an electoral setback and would obtain more than a third of the vote in the next general election.

In a poll conducted by the newspaper Asahi Shimbun, 37 per cent of the respondents said they would vote for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in a lower house election set for Feb. 18.

The level of support from the survey Jan 20-21 was up 16 percentage points from a similar poll conducted two weeks before last July's upper house election, in which the Liberal Democrats lost a majority it held since 1955.

A large number of voters turned against the LDP last year over sex and money scandals, and a new 3 per cent sales tax passed through the parliament by the party, which has ruled since 1955.

Most of the top LDP leaders were linked to allegations that the information conglomerate Recruit Co. sought to buy influence with cut-price stock shares.

The opposition has since been hurt by internal divisions.

Potential coalition partners of the leading opposition party, the Socialists, labelled its policies unrealistic, and many Japanese have expressed misgivings about the opposition's ability to govern.

Asahi Shimbun said its latest survey indicated that 24 per cent of the respondents, down from 28 per cent in the previous survey, intended to vote for the Socialist Party.

Questioned about the outcome of the upcoming election, 25 per cent, down from 34 per cent from last year's survey, said they expected the LDP to maintain a "stable" ruling majority.

Forty-eight per cent, up from 39 per cent, said the election will result in a close balance between the ruling and opposition parties. The poll said 20 per cent of the respondents expected the Liberal Democrats to lose a majority of seats in the lower house. Seven per cent did not answer.

The Liberal Democratic Party currently holds 295 seats in the 512-member house of representatives, and needs 257 seats for a majority.

heard from them, and the police here appear to be puzzled because they have not been able, so far, to trace the missing Gabteni.

But a member of the "Voice of Islam," Mohammed Yahiaoui, claimed Sunday that Gabteni had addressed in April 1989 a telegram to President Francois Mitterrand to inform him that his life was in danger.

In his message to the president, he said, Gabteni wrote: "I affirm that some French and Israeli services are getting ready for a murder in the coming days, months or, at the latest, the next few years."

Gabteni has disappeared on the eve of a demonstration of solidarity with the Azeris in Azerbaijan, called for by his organisation, and which took place Saturday afternoon, in front of the Soviet embassy in the 16th arrondissement.

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Mourning the dead

The family of an ethnic Albanian demonstrator killed by riot police gather around his body in Yugoslavia's troubled Kosovo region. Protesters were demanding the lifting of martial law in the region. (Reuter wirephoto)

14 killed in Kosovo clashes

Albanians vow vengeance

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, Jan 29, (Reuters): Albanians in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province swore blood-oaths of vengeance and mourned 14 of their dead from a weekend of political violence that plunged the region into fresh crisis.

Albanians demanding political reforms clashed with police today in several towns in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo, after 14 people died in weekend violence.

Police used tear gas in Urosevac to disperse demonstrators and several hundred Albanians smashed the windows of the Communist Party headquarters in Lipjan.

At least 20 businesses went on strike in support of the demonstrators in several Kosovo towns.

Witnesses said police shot dead 10 Kosovo Albanian demonstrators on Saturday and four yesterday in renewed violence over demands for the resignation of local leaders, free elections and the release of political prisoners.

Former Kosovo leader Azem Vllasi, jailed with 14 other Albanians last March on charges of fomenting unrest, demanded an end to his trial, telling a court in this mining town today that the indictments were false.

Albanian residents said at least four people died yesterday when police firing with automatic rifles stormed barricades made from telephone cables, bricks and timber in Suva

Call for Kosovo freedom

BRUSSELS, Jan 29, (Reuters): The exiled pretender to the Albanian throne, "King" Leka, today called for independence for the Yugoslav province of Kosovo, where police shot dead 14 ethnic Albanians during weekend demonstrations.

"In 1913 Kosovo fell victim to the carving up of Albanian territory. It must become an independent republic, entirely apart," Leka said in an interview with the Belgian newspaper La Dernière Heure.

Kosovo, an enclave of 1.7 million mostly-Muslim ethnic Albanians in the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia, should ultimately become part of Albania, Leka said.

Now living in South Africa with his wife and son, Leka was only two days old when a German and Italian invasion forced his father, King Zog, to flee Albania in 1939.

Leka, who says he aims to overthrow Albania's Stalinist regime to make way for Western-style democracy, was in Brussels on a tour of Europe and the United States to drum up support among Albanian exiles for an uprising.

Reka, 270 km (170 miles) south of Belgrade.

At least 10 people died in clashes throughout Kosovo on Saturday when police fired on demonstrators demanding reform.

Protests were also reported today in the town of Prizren and its outlying villages near the Albanian border.

Kosovo, which borders on Albania and is part of Yugoslavia's largest republic Serbia, has been torn for decades by tensions between its 1.7 million mostly Muslim ethnic Albanians and 200,000 Christian Serbs and Montenegrins.

Over 40,000 Serbs and Montenegrins have fled the province over the past 10 years, saying the Albanians were terrorising them

into migration in a bid to create a wholly-Albanian Kosovo.

Last year 28 people died after the Albanians rioted against curbs on the province's self-rule in favour of Serbia.

Serbs in many villages and towns were demanding the state protect their lives and property and threatened to take up arms to defend themselves. There was a heavy police presence in most Kosovo towns.

Serbia has vowed not to give in to the demonstrators' demands. Federal leaders have not commented on the unrest.

"Official organs in Kosovo assess that the situation in the province is taking on dramatic trends that could lead to widespread unrest," the national news agency Tanjug said yesterday.

IRA bomb kills teenager

LONDON, Jan 29, (Reuters): The IRA killed a teenager and injured eight people in a bungled bomb attack intended for British security forces monitoring a Republican rally in Londonderry.

Sunday's killing, which the Irish Republican Army (IRA) called "a freak accident," was the latest in a long line of botched attacks by the guerrilla group in Northern Ireland.

The 17-year-old boy, who was hit by chunks of flying masonry, died of head injuries. Four policemen, a soldier and three civilians were also slightly injured.

The bomb went off minutes before several hun-

dred people filed past in a parade to commemorate the 1972 "bloody Sunday" civil rights march which ended with British paratroopers killing 13 Catholic protesters.

The guerrilla group apologised for the attack saying the bomb had been intended to hit British security forces.

"We regard the result of the explosion as having been a freak accident," it said in a statement.

The youth had come to the rally from nearby Strabane on a bus hired by the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, which plans to debate IRA mistakes during its annual conference in Dublin next week.

Sinn Fein's electoral support has slumped steadily after a string of bungled IRA attacks stretching back to November 1987 where a bomb killed 11 people attending a war memorial ceremony in Enniskillen.

The IRA, fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland, was internationally condemned for that blast. It was also widely criticised for killing the wife and six-month-old child of a British Royal Air Force sergeant in West Germany last year.

Martin McGuinness, one of the leaders of Sinn Fein whose power base is in Londonderry, also expressed profound regret for the boy's death.

UN to pursue rights drive

GENEVA, Jan 29, (Reuters): The United Nations, heartened by democratic reforms in Eastern Europe, plans to continue its drive for human rights at a meeting opening today.

The UN Human Rights Commission, while pursuing the remaining rights violators in Eastern Europe, will also turn its attention elsewhere during its annual six-week review.

"What we are seeing in Eastern Europe has very much to do with human rights and previous violations," the UN under-secretary general for human rights, Jan Martenson of Sweden, said ahead of the meeting.

"In this process which is now taking place I believe firmly that the United Nations has a very important role to play when it comes to human rights and to assist in the restoration of democracy," he said.

Attempts to condemn or at least investigate violations in communist nations have won increasing support in recent years, with the focus directed at Romania, Cuba, Albania and China.

With the East bloc in ferment, Western diplomats believe it will be easier to push through criticism of the last hardline communist states.

"An ally of the past may no longer be an ally," one West European diplomat told Reuters. "If we're in the position of some of the remaining countries (which violate rights), I would be feeling a little uncomfortable."

The commission has no power to enforce its decisions or views, relying instead on the glare of world opinion to change behaviour. Some countries will often go to great lengths to avoid a bad mention, though many seem to take little notice.

One crack in the Soviet sphere of influence appeared last year when Hungary co-sponsored a resolution in the commission against Romania. The Soviet Union, East Germany and Bulgaria declined to vote the move though they did not vote in favour.

With former political prisoners now government leaders in some East European countries, they might accept or even push for criticism of Albania, China and Cuba, diplomats said.

US Ambassador Morris Abram said his country would again seek criticism of Cuba, which he said persecuted people who testified against the government during a visit by a UN human rights delegation two years ago.

"The issue is not just the United States but any other country versus Cuba. Rather it is Cuba versus the United Nations and its human rights organs," he said.

A UN sub-commission in August criticised China for what it called the recent "events" here — a reference to last June's massacre in Tiananmen Square — and asked the commission to examine the situation.

The US delegation, apparently keen not to offend Beijing, says it has no instructions yet to seek a resolution on China. But diplomats said it seemed other countries would do so.

A crumpled agenda awaits the 43-nation body, which will have to act on more than 100 resolutions and decisions on a wide range of issues during the six-week session.

Observers from most other UN member states are expected to attend the meeting along with representatives with close 150 non-governmental organisations monitoring human rights worldwide.

At least 15 evening sessions lasting up to midnight have been scheduled so far, and UN officials forecast more will be needed.

The ruling military junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council, has held Suu Kyi under house arrest since July 20 for allegedly slandering the military. The charismatic Suu Kyi, 44, is the daughter of Gen. Aung San, the founder of the Burmese military.

The election commission barred Suu Kyi from the polls on the basis of complaints about her alleged contacts with underground groups, her marriage to a foreigner and her long residence overseas as reasons to bar her from the elections set for May 27.

The statement by (the junta) that our support for Daw (Mrs.) Aung San Suu Kyi is proof that she has contact with outlawed student organisations is illogical," the student statement said.

The budget plan includes five B-2 Stealth bombers costing \$5.5 billion. The batwinged, radar-evading plane has given lawmakers "sticker shock" with its \$530-million price tag. Congress approved two of the three Stealth bombers requested last year, but the addition of five more is certain to be resisted.

Funds for SDI, the proposed space-based anti-missile system, would be increased by \$900 million to 4.5 billion.

US will slash defence spending

WASHINGTON, Jan 29, (AP): President George Bush asked Congress today to trim defence spending by two per cent after inflation in a \$292.1-billion Pentagon budget proposal for next year that acknowledges a diminishing Soviet military threat.

Bush and Defence Secretary Dick Cheney outlined a smaller US military force, paring 38,000 men and women from the two million in uniform and calling for elimination of several weapons systems as well as the closing of numerous military bases.

At the same time, the plan calls for five costly new B-2 Stealth bombers, another \$1 billion Trident submarine and funds for two controversial intercontinental nuclear missile systems. The President also called for an additional \$900 million for the Strategic Defence Initiative, the space-based missile defence system commonly known as "Star Wars."

The recommendations are certain to provoke a blistering battle on Capitol Hill, where lawmakers cut Bush's request for SDI funding this year, and are unlikely to embrace military base closings in their own districts.

Cheney said in a statement that the Defence Department budget "represents the first steps in responding to changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, as well as tighter budget constraints. Our response include reducing force levels, closing military bases and ending weapons programme."

To help reduce spending, Cheney planned to announce later today a sweeping list of bases to be closed or reduced over the next five years, from Philadelphia to Long Beach, California, and overseas.

The base closing proposals, some already publicised, have drawn angry protests from lawmakers whose congressional districts would be affected.

The Pentagon's fiscal 1991 budget plan for the 12 months starting Oct 1 shows an increase in current outlays — a two per cent reduction after adjusting for anticipated inflation. The administration projects a 4.3 per cent inflation rate for the coming year.

The Pentagon is seeking overall budget authority of \$295.1 billion, up from this year's \$291.4 billion. That figure does not include \$11.1 million in spending for the nuclear weapons programmes administered by the Energy Department.

Looking ahead, Cheney projected a two per cent decline in defence spending over the next five years.

"By 1995, defence spending will be at its lowest level, measured either as a share of (the total economy) or as a portion of total federal spending, since before World War II," Cheney said.

The fiscal 1991 plan calls for cutting active-duty armed forces by 38,000 men and women, trimming civilian Defence Department employees by 5,000 and reducing reserve forces by 3,000.

Two army divisions in the states of Texas and Washington — would be disbanded by the end of the year. And production of the Army's M-1 tank would end after 225 are turned out this year.

The navy would lose two of its four battleships from the World War II era, the USS Iowa and USS New Jersey, for an estimated savings of \$75 million. Eight older attack submarines would be deactivated and two nuclear cruisers would be retired. Fourteen B-52s also would be withdrawn from service.

Overall, Cheney said he wanted to terminate 20 weapons programmes in an attempt to save \$2.9 billion.

Among them are the marine corps V-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft, the navy's F-14D jet fighter, the Phoenix and Maverick missiles, the Apache helicopter, the army helicopter improvement programme and the F-15E fighter.

Congress last year rejected the administration's attempt to eliminate the Osprey and ordered F-14D production to end after several years.

The administration's move to protect several big-ticket weapons programmes from the budget axe faces opposition in Congress.

The budget plan includes five B-2 Stealth bombers costing \$5.5 billion. The batwinged, radar-evading plane has given lawmakers "sticker shock" with its \$530-million price tag. Congress approved two of the three Stealth bombers requested last year, but the addition of five more is certain to be resisted.

Funds for SDI, the proposed space-based anti-missile system, would be increased by \$900 million to 4.5 billion.



Braving the cold

A Mongolian couple, wrapped in traditional clothes against the bitter cold, walk through Ulan Bator, the capital of Mongolia. This remote communist country, sandwiched between China and the Soviet

Union, is in the throes of reform as a new democracy movement has emerged to challenge the government. (Reuter wirephoto)

Reform wave fans out

Activists rally in Mongolian province

DARKHAN, Mongolia, Jan 29, (Reuters): A Mongolian democracy movement aiming to break the communist monopoly on power took its campaign to the provinces yesterday — attracting about 300 people including several bemused nomadic herdsmen.

Attendance at the rally in Mongolia's second city of Darkhan was small compared to the thousands who turned out recently in the capital, Ulan Bator. But organisers said that for a town of 75,000 it was satisfactory.

Herdsman, marshalling sheep in surrounding grasslands, looked on in curiosity as democracy activists atop a platform yelled anti-government slogans.

"We must force deep changes in our political system. We must smash bureaucracy. We need democracy," shouted chief organiser Dambindorj Niuj, a leader of the democracy movement who

travelled to Darkhan from Ulan Bator.

Demands for democracy and an end to 69 years of one-party communist rule hit this sparsely-populated nation of two million people, wedged between the Soviet Union and China, last month.

Four rallies held in Ulan Bator have drawn thousands of cheering supporters.

The rally by the Mongolian Democratic Association in Darkhan, 240 km (150 miles) north of the capital, was its first move to take the word to the provinces.

Other provincial demonstrations were also scheduled in the outlying cities of Choybalsan and Erdenet yesterday but it could not be immediately confirmed that these went ahead.

The Ulan Bator government has in effect recognised the Mongolian Democratic Association but says that under the current constitution it cannot be granted official party status.

Belgians divided on pullout study

BRUSSELS, Jan 29, (AP): Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens today criticised plans to study the withdrawal of Belgian troops from West Germany, opening a rift within Belgium's centre-left government.

In published remarks, Eyskens said even studying the idea of withdrawing some or all of Belgium's 25,000 troops in West Germany was "premature."

"It gives the impression Belgium wants to anticipate the results" of East-West negotiations in Vienna on conventional arms reductions in Europe, he told the daily De Standaard.

On Friday Prime Minister Wilfried Martens said the study was ordered "to be ready if the problem arises at Nato and at the negotiating table in Vienna."

Soviets deploy giant nuclear sub in north

OSLO, Jan 29, (Reuters): The Soviet Union, continuing a major modernisation of its navy, has deployed another powerful nuclear submarine with the key Arctic northern fleet, Nato-member Norway said today.

"The Soviets now have six Typhoon submarines on Kola," said Colonel Gullow Gjeseth of Norway's defence command.

He said the submarine was launched from the Kola peninsula, which borders on the Arctic north of Norway and Finland, late last year. "But we do not know whether it will stay here," he said, adding that it was not fully operative.

Norway keeps a careful watch on Soviet submarine traffic off its coast. But Gjeseth declined to reveal how the new submarine had been detected.

Burmese dissident students deplore ban on Suu Kyi

BANGKOK, Jan 29, (UPI): The leading Burmese dissident student group denounced the banning of key opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi from forthcoming elections and denied government allegations that it has close contacts with Suu Kyi.

The All Burma Students' Democratic Front, a grouping of student opposition organisations operating near Burma's borders, said it supports Suu Kyi because she wants "genuine democracy in Burma."

The Front, however, in a statement received by United Press International today, said it does not have the same political strategy as Suu Kyi or maintain close contacts with her.

The ruling military junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council, has held Suu Kyi under house arrest since July 20 for allegedly slandering the military. The charismatic Suu Kyi, 44, is the daughter of Gen. Aung San, the founder of the Burmese military.

The election commission barred Suu Kyi from the polls on the basis of complaints about her alleged contacts with underground groups, her marriage to a foreigner and her long residence overseas as reasons to bar her from the elections set for May 27.

The statement by (the junta) that our support for Daw (Mrs.) Aung San Suu Kyi is proof that she has contact with outlawed student organisations is illogical," the student statement said.

The budget plan includes five B-2 Stealth bombers costing \$5.5 billion. The batwinged, radar-evading plane has given lawmakers "sticker shock" with its \$530-million price tag. Congress approved two of the three Stealth bombers requested last year, but the addition of five more is certain to be resisted.

Funds for SDI, the proposed space-based anti-missile system, would be increased by \$900 million to 4.5 billion.

Beatrice to visit Ireland: Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and her husband, Prince Claus, are planning to visit Ireland to mark a battle 300 years ago fought between Protestants and Catholics.

"Talks are going on to explore the possibility of a trip later this year," said royal spokeswoman Fred Loerzer, in the Hague, adding details had not been finalised.

The visit would mark the 300th anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne in which a forebear of the queen, Protestant King William III of England, defeated the Jacobite forces of the deposed Roman Catholic King, James II. (AP)

Likely to die earlier: Illegitimate babies in the UK are more likely to die before their first birthday than babies of married couples, a new research published in London indicates.

But British childcare experts were unable to agree on the reason for the "startling finding."

One in four babies in Britain are now born out of wedlock, the report, highlighted by the British media, said.

And up to half of those are estimated to be born to couples who believe their steady relationship is as good as marriage.

However, the new investigation seems to suggest that the cave given to babies by unmarried parents does not match that from a husband and wife. (Kuna)

Woman charged with kidnapping: A 33-year-old woman was charged on Sunday with child stealing after police swooped on a secluded English country cottage late on Friday and recovered a baby kidnapped two weeks previously.

Police found baby Alexandra Griffiths, taken from a hospital ward shortly after she was born, in good health in the cottage in the southern town of Burford and arrested a woman who press reports said took a drug overdose just prior to her arrest.

A police spokesman said Janet Griffiths, who coincidentally bears the same name as the kidnapped baby, would appear in court on Monday under the 1861 offences against the person act. (Reuter)

10 killed in floods: At least 10 people were killed and dozens left homeless after heavy rains and floods destroyed homes and farms in southern Lesotho, officials said Monday.

Red Cross officials in the small southern African Nation said 10 people were drowned during flood weekend when their homes were engulfed by flood waters from the Caledon river. A helicopter rescued some stranded residents, they said.

About 50 families were left homeless after flooding swept away their homes, the officials said. (AP)

23 killed in plane crash: A military plane crashed in the central African state of Congo on Saturday, killing 23 passengers and crew, officials sources said on Monday.

The French-made transport plane was

UK storms

2 more die

LONDON, Jan 29, (Kuna): Two more people died and a third was seriously hurt during new bad weather conditions that hit Britain, causing road accidents and black ice, it was reported today.

The two victims lived locally in the Manchester area, northern England, British police said.

Meanwhile, police in Devon and Cornwall, south west England, which experienced widespread flooding over the weekend, today said the waters were subsiding.

In London, a weather centre spokesman said that winds in the south east had subsided overnight but were expected to pick up again later today.

Emergency services, the army and local councils had been on standby throughout storm-lashed south England, to deal with new potential damage to buildings and trees already weakened by last Thursday's storm, in which 46 people died.

Ten army officers and 13 civilians, including three children, died in the crash. (Reuter)

Tilt-wing plane debate: Questions Sunday were raised in Washington anew about the future of the V-22 Osprey, a "tilt-wing" military helicopter that angles its rotors to fly like a plane.

Richard Milhaven, a planner with the New York port authority, told the New York Times, "nothing on the horizon offers the potential for capacity systems-wide like the tilt-rotors."

The port authority is considering building a "vertiport" to accommodate a civilian version of the odd aircraft.

He and other proponents say the "copter-plane" has many uses — notably as a high-speed commuter shuttle that eliminates long queues, delays and resulting frustration for ordinary airplane shuttle passengers. (Kuna)

Drugs conference to open: The UN narcotics control board opens the 11th special session in Vienna Monday, as part of preparations for a special session of the United Nations on the narcotics problem in New York in February.

During the five-day session this Austrian capital experts from 40 countries, including Kuwait, will draft a resolution and other documents for the New York conference.

APX1 201/50

Grand coalition formed: Honecker faces trial

E. Germany is disintegrating, says Modrow

EAST BERLIN, Jan 29, (Reuters): East Germany's disgraced former leader Erich Honecker, his erstwhile security police boss and two close politburo associates will stand trial for treason in March, the prosecutor-general said today.

Hans-Juergen Joseph, in a televised speech to Parliament unveiling the extent of criminal inquiries into what he called "indescribable arrogance of power," said the four former politburo titans would be tried before the Supreme Court.

Prime Minister Hans Modrow said today East Germany's political

Honecker, 77, was released from hospital today after undergoing cancer surgery and was hustled off to a prison used to hold people awaiting trial.

Joseph said 23 top-ranking members of the hardline party old guard, ousted from power by a peaceful pro-democracy uprising last November, and more than 200 regional party bosses were under investigation for misrule and corruption.

Fourteen former members of Honecker's politburo were in jail, more than half the ruling body which has since been abolished in a sweeping democratisation of the party.

Some 181 inquiries had been launched against members of Mielke's State Security Ministry for police assaults on peaceful protesters last October, 10 days before Honecker's forced resignation, according to Joseph.

"We have a historical duty to bring to justice the main culprits for violations of the constitution, for our economic chaos, for the humiliating of the people and systematic violation of human rights," Joseph said.

He said the old party elite led to a "totalitarian and showed an indescribable arrogance of power."

Despite fervent public commitments to democratic reform, the party's authority has crumbled since the old guard's fall because of its track record of misrule.

Communist Prime Minister Hans Modrow and opposition leaders agreed yesterday to form a grand coalition and move up the country's first free elections by two months to March 18 to calm anti-communist turmoil.

Mielke, Herrmann and Mittag, who are already in custody, were considered to have been the main powerbrokers with Honecker in his 18 years of autocratic rule.

The former communist coterie around Honecker had used the Stasi security police, controlled by Mielke, to keep them in power, Joseph said in his report.

Doctors who treated Honecker for cancer said today they considered him unfit to be held in prison and face trial. But Joseph said he believed medical care in special investigative prisons was adequate.

For Honecker, the trial would complete his dramatic fall from grace and bring his life full circle. In December 1935, he was arrested as a young communist underground worker by the Nazis and put on trial for "preparations for high treason."

In a 15-minute televised speech, a stern-faced Modrow told the Parliament (Volkskammer) that law and order was collapsing, the economy was in tatters and the exodus of disgruntled citizens to the West continued unabated.

"I don't think I have dramatized things here," said Modrow, the communist leader of a five-party coalition government.

Modrow was briefing the deputies on why his government had agreed last night to set up the historic coalition with the 10 opposition groups represented at round-table talks.

The new team is seen as an interim cabinet of "national responsibility" that will rule until elections on March 18, two months earlier than originally planned.

Under the coalition agreement reached just before midnight, nine opposition groups will put ministers in the communist-led government, and parliamentary elections were moved up by nearly two months, from May 6.

Communists will be in a minority in the enlarged cabinet for the first time in 40 years.

"The current coalition proved increasingly fragile as economic and social tensions have worsened, affecting the daily life of our people," Modrow said.

An early elections would give the country's 16.6 million people the opportunity "to improve, calm and stabilise... land... the very fatal situation in our country."

Modrow, a former whose government replaced the Stalinist elite toppled by pro-democracy protests in November, said strikes, go-slows and disintegrating local government were threatening East Germany's future.

"The economic situation is worsening alarmingly. These strikes, slowdowns and other disturbances are leading to serious production breakdowns."

and economic survival hinged on the government's decision to form a "grand coalition" and bring forward free elections.

Joseph said Honecker and his three aides had systematically trampled over fundamental human rights, warped the media with censorship, squandered and embezzled public funds, and hushed up electoral fraud to preserve the omnipotence of their Stalinist Communist Party.

Facing trial for treason with Honecker would be Erich Mielke, 81, the state security minister for 32 years Guenter Mittag, the politburo member blamed for ruining the economy with state bureaucracy and ex-propaganda chief Joachim Herrmann.



Honecker (centre) leaves hospital in East Berlin accompanied by his wife Margot (left) and a security policeman. (Reuters wirephoto)

Polish reds disband party

Turns pink

WARSAW, Jan 29, (Reuters): Poland's communists disbanded their discredited party today and formed a Social Democratic Party headed by one of the brightest young politicians in the country.

"Facing a huge task of winning public support, the New Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland (SDRP) turned to 35-year-old Aleksander Kwasniewski to lead it after emerging from the ashes of the demoralised Polish United Workers Party (PUWP).

Kwasniewski was elected chairman by an overwhelming vote at a party congress that earlier disbanded the PUWP. Leszek Miller, a 43-year-old former Politburo member, became general secretary.

A former central committee secretary, Kwasniewski earned a dynamic image as minister for youth and sport in the last communist government. He was tipped as a future prime minister until the PUWP was humbled in elections and ousted by Solidarity last September.

He said today the new Social Democratic Party would gain credibility if a minority of Stalinist hardliners at its founding congress dropped out and formed their own party.

"It's impossible for so many people to become social democrats overnight," Kwasniewski told reporters. "I think as many as 100 to 150 communist hardliners will quit to form their own party within one or two weeks and I do hope they will."

He said many hardliners at the congress, who lobbied for a socialist, anti-capitalist party rather than Social Democracy, had refused to sign membership applications for the SDRP.

At least one other breakaway party, led by Solidarity-backed former Communist official Tadeusz Fiszbach, emerged from the ruins of the 41-year-old Polish United Workers (Communist) Party.

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa emphasised the uphill task the new party faces in convincing Poles of its democratic credentials, saying the old party that gave birth to it was responsible for the crisis afflicting Poland.

In a statement from his home in the northern port city of Gdansk Walesa said the PUWP's demise ended an era of authoritarian rule in Poland.

"Forty years of the party's monopolistic rule beyond the control of society led to a crisis in

citizens' identification with the state, the demise of public and patriotic life and the collapse of the economy," he said.

Walesa also condemned a congress resolution to give PUWP assets worth more than \$70 million to the new party. He said the property was held illegally and the handover would be "an act of arrogance that could only irritate society."

The PUWP was the second Communist Party to re-group under a new name in the tide of democratic change sweeping eastern Europe. Hungary's communists became a Western-style socialist party last October.

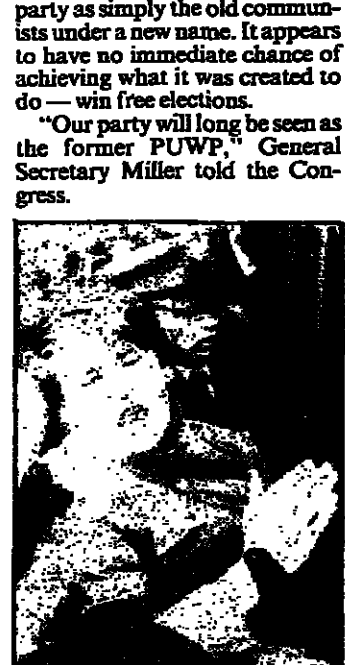
But nearly 500 of the 1,600 ex-communists at the Congress failed to show up to elect the new leaders today, a snub that may boost a rival group set up by about 100 progressives yesterday.

The Union of Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland, headed by former Gdansk party chief Tadeusz Fiszbach, walked out of the Congress to dissociate itself from hardliners.

The group may base its hopes for public support on personal backing that Walesa gave Fiszbach before the congress — a contribution that could give it credibility in the eyes of many Poles.

Many will see Kwasniewski's party as simply the old communists under a new name. It appears to have no immediate chance of achieving what it was created to do — win free elections.

"Our party will long be seen as the former PUWP," General Secretary Miller told the Congress.



An anti-communist protester is detained in Warsaw. (Reuters wirephoto)

Oskar victory setback for Kohl

BONN, Jan 29, (Agencies): Oskar Lafontaine, a combative Social Democrat, brightly opened his general election campaign to oust West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl by scoring a landslide victory in Saar state assembly polls.

His re-election on Sunday put the controversial state premier, 46, at the head of the opposition Social Democrats' (SPD) campaign for the national elections in December.

The Saar SPD swept a surprising 54 per cent of the vote against seven challengers, according to the final count, after notching 49 per cent in the state's last elections in 1985.

Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU), led in the Saar campaign by Environment Minister Klaus Toepler from Bonn, crashed to 33 per cent from 37 per cent five years ago.

"I'm very happy about this result, I'm surprised at how high it was," the hunched premier said in Saarbrücken, capital of his small state in the hills along the French border.

But Lafontaine, whose party has waited for the state result before naming him its national candidate, declined to say whether he would now become the SPD candidate.

"All these other questions are for later," he protested to persistent television reporters. He said an SPD executive meeting in Bonn today would not yet decide on a candidate.

The Saar poll opened a year-long electoral marathon in West Germany, which will have three more state elections and two local government polls before December's general elections.

The East German government and opposition leaders agreed on Sunday to hold the country's first free elections on March 18, two months earlier than scheduled, throwing another wild card into the electoral balance.

Lafontaine's populist charisma kept fringe parties on the right and left — the Republicans and the Greens — under the five per cent of the vote needed to enter the Saar assembly.

Conceding defeat, Toepler, who is not from Saar state, said Lafontaine profited by stressing his "Saar patriotism."

"This was a unique situation," he said. "It is a bitter experience to lose but it is not a reason to be resigned."

Romanians in discord

Pro-front crowds besiege opposition parties

BUCHAREST, Jan 29, (Reuters): Thousands of Romanians loyal to the interim government besieged the headquarters of opposition parties today, forcing one party leader to leave inside an armoured car.

Tens of thousands of workers demonstrated in the capital in a well-orchestrated show of support for the ruling National Salvation Front (NSF).

Corneliu Coposu, whose National Peasants Party (NPP) head office was surrounded by at least 2,000 chanting workers, was seen leaving the building under army escort.

Workers pounded on the armoured car with their fists as the 74-year-old Coposu, the front's harshest critics, drove off with Prime Minister Petre Roman.

"Get him out of the country," shouted the demonstrators, many of whom were brought by bus and truck from big state-owned factories.

But there were no signs of violence as soldiers and police defended the building and the headquarters of the National Liberals and Social Democrats, which were also besieged.

The three parties organised an anti-front demonstration yesterday, mobilising only 10,000 to 15,000 supporters at the height of the day-long protest.

Front sympathisers turned out last night, responding to appeals on state television and radio, but there was no fighting between the rival groups.

But the government's reply to its fiercely anti-communist opponents came today when far larger numbers of workers were allowed to leave factories to demonstrate.

Roman and the front's vice-president, Casimir Ionescu, went inside the Peasants' Party headquarters and appealed to their supporters from the balcony to stay calm and disperse.

"These men outside are well-intentioned but they don't know the rules of democracy yet," Ionescu told reporters after negotiating an agreement that Coposu and Roman leave under escort for national television studios to record a debate on their rival political views.

Coposu, calmly puffing on a cigarette as the "stuffy" crowd heaved outside shouting insults at him, was clearly sceptical about whether the pro-front rally was spontaneous.

"I don't know if this is proof of political conviction or of stage management," pulling on his overcoat before heading for the armoured car.

"Ilescu, do not resign. The country needs you," the pro-government demonstrators chanted. They were referring to President Ion Ilescu, who took power after dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's overthrow and execution last month.

Opinion Roman in his address said the government would take all shades of political opinion into account in the run-up to national elections planned for May 20.

"We will continue to bear this heavy burden (of running the country) until the time when the people can express their opinions through free and fair elections for all," he said.

The anti-government protesters yesterday, many of them students, called on the front to resign. They said it consisted of long-time Ceausescu stalwarts who could not be trusted.

Today's demonstrators rejected allegations that the NSF consisted of unrepentant communists and said men like Ilescu and Roman had saved them from Ceausescu's tyranny.

"The front are our people and we believe in them," said engineer Gheorghe Croitoru, 49, who was among about 25,000 other front supporters in Victory Square outside the vast neo-Stalinist building.

Many demonstrators expressed strong suspicion of some of the political parties which have been made legal since Ceausescu was toppled on Dec 22.

"They have come from abroad... they did not suffer with us," said factory worker Panait Rizea. He was referring to National Liberal Party leader Paul Campeanu, who returned to Romania from France three weeks ago.

Campeanu told journalists today he had lived in France for 16 years after spending nine years in jail and several years working as a labourer.



A mother grieves her son, killed in the December revolution in Romania, at the Hero's cemetery in Bucharest. (Reuters wirephoto)



A group of Romanian National Salvation Front supporters push an anti-front protester from a tank at the NSF headquarters in Bucharest. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rally against Soviet troops

Czechs demand pullout

PRAGUE, Jan 29, (Agencies): Some 20,000 demonstrators rallied yesterday in the central city of Olomouc demanding the departure of Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia as soon as possible, the official news agency CTK said.

The number of protesters was roughly equal to the number of Soviet soldiers, civic workers and their families stationed in the Olomouc district since the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 to crush the reform-minded Prague Spring, CTK said.

Altogether, there are nearly 80,000 Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia. The Foreign Ministry announced Jan 17 that the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia have agreed in principle on the withdrawals, but a timetable must be worked out.

Czechoslovakia has asked that Moscow pull out all 80,000 of its troops by the end of the year, and to withdraw at least half of those forces prior to elections scheduled in early June.

President Vaclav Havel is expected to bring up the issue during his forthcoming talks in Moscow with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The demonstrators presented a petition to the garrison commander, Maj. Gen. Evgeni Meshcheryakov, at the Soviet command in Olomouc.

He assured them he will await Havel's talks with Gorbachev, and then discuss dates for the withdrawal with the local government bodies, CTK said.

He told the demonstrators that troop activities in Olomouc and in the nearby Libava military area no longer have the character of military preparedness, but are aimed at paving the way for departure.

Thousands of people yesterday jammed a church outside Prague to greet Bishop Karel Otčenasek — the first Roman Catholic bishop there since Czechoslovakia's revolution ousted the hardline communist leadership.

The church ceremony was attended by Havel; Archbishop Francesco Colasuonno; the Pope's special envoy, Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger of Paris and several other high-ranking church officials.

"I am happy for this diocese that it finally has its bishop, and I am happy it is you," Havel said at the ceremony for Otčenasek in the Church of the Holy Ghost in Hradec Kralova. "I feel a little like a sheep belonging to your flock, because I come here quite often," said Havel.

In a surprise announcement to Parliament last Tuesday, he suggested that Prague should be the venue for the next superpower summit and will put forward the idea during visits to Moscow and Washington next month.

"In Moscow I will suggest to Gorbachev that his next summit with (President George) Bush take place in Prague. While in the US, I will suggest the same to Bush," he said.

■ Czechoslovakia's dissident turned President, Vaclav Havel, has been nominated for the Nobel peace prize for the second year running.

Sofia set for power struggle

SOFIA, Jan 29, (Reuters): Hardliners in Bulgaria's ruling Communist Party look set for a showdown with its more reform-minded leaders at a party congress which opens tomorrow.

The congress, with some 3,000 delegates, is to discuss a new name, statute and manifesto for the party which is trying to regain popular support in the face of growing opposition.

Western diplomats and opposition groups in Sofia say the meeting will be dominated by a power struggle which could split the party between reformers and dishard conservatives.

"It's a minefield," one Western diplomat in Sofia commented. "They've got disagreement on everything — the retreat of the party from its dominant role in society, the state of the country's economy, liberalisation of laws and how much they should talk to opposition."

A backlash by hardliners at the congress would be the greatest test of new leader Petar Mladenov, who ousted veteran hardliner Todor Zhivkov last November.

Mladenov was quick to purge Zhivkov's conservative supporters from top party posts and replace them with a team of younger technocrats.

Disgraced former leader Todor Zhivkov is in prison and his son-in-law and a close ally are under investigation on criminal charges, Bulgarian radio said today.

The radio said Zhivkov, whose arrest was ordered last week, was in "the main investigation department," or prison. Earlier reports said he was under house arrest at one of his 30 former official residences.

Handwritten text in a box: "السلامة العامة"

KFC planning to expand local operations

Seafood restaurants in all areas

KUWAIT, Jan 29, (Kuna): The Kuwait Fisheries Company (KFC) has embarked on plans aiming at broadening its activities and at the same time working for maintaining balanced prices for fish at the local market, a ranking company official said.

KFC assistant managing director Faisal Bin Sabt said in an interview with Kuwait News Agency that by supplying the local market with its needs of fish and shrimps it is meeting the local demand and at the same time preserving a balance in prices so that consumers can buy their needs.

He added that the company carries out its fishing activities through its 13 modern-equipped fishing boats and sells its products at 29 outlets (Dana centres) and at Shuwaikh fish market.

He referred to the new field which the company has begun nearly three years ago, represented in the opening of a chain of restaurants, specialized in serving seafood. Bin Sabt said the company intends to expand the activity of restaurants and is planning to set up branches in all areas of

the country.

The KFC official emphasized in an answer to a question that the company does not compete with individual fishermen, but it puts its products at the local market like any other trader.

On the company's activities abroad, Bin Sabt said the Kuwaiti production of fish is not sufficient for local consumption and so the company does not export fish, and pointed out that there is a law that bans exporting fish to protect the local resources and the consumers.

He added that the company imports thousands of tons of fish from India and Pakistan, and said demand on the imported fish is very high due to their low prices.

On the company's future plans, Bin Sabt said it is envisaging expanding fishing operations and improving its fishing factories and refrigeration warehouses and increasing productivity.

He added that setting up an ice factory is under way by the company to supply ships with their needs of ice.

Climate deters farming: Othman

THE managing director of the board at the Kuwait Agro-production Company Khaled Abdullah Al-Othman has said that the Kuwait agricultural sector has limitations of volume and prospects, therefore its contribution to the Gross National Product remains comparatively low.

He told a local daily that the environmental and climatic factors formed the foremost constraints that were responsible for the comparative high costs and inability for this sector to grow and flourish.

He said that the sandy soil in Kuwait is poor in nutrients and does not retain water, besides it contains minerals unsuitable for plants. The scarcity of irrigation water supplies, high temperature in the summer and low temperature in winter with chances for frost formation also harms plants.

Othman added that dry wind and sandstorms precipitates the rate of evaporation and breaks plant stems and required the installation of windbreakers which increased agro-production cost. The high humidity and heat waves led to the growth of fungi and spread of plant and animal disease. Besides these natural hardships local agro-production activities also face tough competition against imported products and the market bias by consumers in favour of the imported products are added to factors limited the prospects for agricultural activities to flourish and develop.

He said that marketing posed a difficult task, as producers always asked for a high price for products, while consumers in contrast sought low-priced products. The problem is worsened when the products marketed are fragile and highly susceptible to damage, and consequently has a very short shelf life.

He also said that the agro-products supply would sometimes not be able to meet the high demand, and that under all these circumstances the company has to pay considerable attention to the marketing of products produced by Kuwaiti farmers in order to ensure positive results and yield for the farmer, the agricultural sector and the national economy on the whole.

Othman said the company placed all its capabilities at the disposal of farmers, which included the packaging of perishable goods in appropriate plastic and carton containers and storing these products in suitably-refrigerated areas to minimize damage, while balancing supply and demand to meet local needs.

He pointed out that the company operates new service which guarantees house to house delivery of refrigerated vegetables and fruits.



Contracts signed

Minister of State for Housing Nasser Al Roudhan recently signed five contracts with the National Prefabricated Company for the design and construction of 13 schools in Qurain. The value of the contracts is KD20 million.

Co-ops, clinics and schools

Ministries to meet needs of Farwaniya governorate

AT a meeting with the Governor of Farwaniya and the Council of Farwaniya Governorate, the ministers of social affairs, health and education stressed readiness to co-operate with the councils of five governorates to meet with the demands of citizens.

Abdulla Al Qatani, chairman of the council, at the outset of the meeting, submitted a list of demands which included the need for a labour department in the Farwaniya Governorate; separating Qurtuba Co-operative Society from Udailla Co-operative Society and annexing it to Surra Co-operative or Yarmouk Co-operative and the establishment of youth centres in some areas of the governorate.

Sheikh Naser Mohammed Al Ahmad, the minister of social affairs and labour, informed the officials that the ministry had allocated a site for the Farwaniya Labour Department and that youth centres in some areas of the governorates will be built gradually.

Sheikh Nasser went on to explain that the ministry has completed debating the new co-operative societies law and will open society development centres soon.

He added that the decision to increase the rents of shops of co-operative societies was taken by the state and not the minister of finance or the minister of social affairs. Further, he said that the authorities have as yet not determined the percentage that will be deducted from the profits of co-operative societies for the governorate councils. However, he said the state will deduct 25 per cent of these amounts to serve areas and some will be allocated for the governorate councils.

The official said that the Ministry of Social Affairs will dissolve the board of any co-operative society that does not abide by the regulations and laws. He disclosed that only two boards of co-operatives have violated the law so far.

Further, he said that the minister of social affairs refused a proposal to make the Auditing Bureau control the accounts of co-operative societies. "Each co-operative has its auditors who are qualified to execute this function," he said.

The members of the Farwaniya Council called on the health minister to expand Farwaniya Hospital.

establish a permanent dental clinic, and establish a health centre in Firdous area and another in Jubeil Al-Shaykh. The health minister replied that these demands of the citizens of the area will receive careful and considerate study.

He said that Farwaniya Hospital will be expanded to accommodate an additional 120 beds for all major specialties such as: pediatrics, maternity and internal diseases. The ministry plans to build a new hospital in Surra area and coupled with the Farwaniya Hospital will be adequate to cater to the needs of the people of the Farwaniya Governorate.

The ministry will receive the new health centre of south Farwaniya next June and on it being operational, it will reduce the pressure on the other health centres, the official said.

Clinics

The ministry will also provide special clinics for bachelors and others for families in Kheitan Area beside clinics in Omariya and Rabia areas that will be opened after two months. The ministry began building health centres that can serve over 25,000 persons, the official said. The director of Farwaniya Health Area Dr Sulaiman Al Falah said that the area has eight clinics for diabetes. Farwaniya and Kheitan co-operative societies contributed to build two new clinics. He added that Ministry of Health will open a specialised centre in Kheitan area just like the Salmiya health centre.

Minister Al Awadi revealed that the ministry has completed a study to organise and open private pharmacies and disclosed that the ministry is studying a special system to allow Kuwaiti physicians to open private clinics within government hospitals to treat patients who want private physicians.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Anwar Al Nouri stressed that there is no political decision to control the appointment of teachers of certain nationalities in schools. He added that the ministry appoints non-Kuwaiti teachers according to requirements. But he added that there is a political decision to appoint Kuwaiti graduates of the faculty of education at Kuwait University and the faculty of basic education of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training. The ministry is also studying the unification of the educational system in the secondary stage. A decision on this question will be taken during the next scholastic year, he said.

Mideast peace

Garba voices concern

KUWAIT, Jan 29, (Kuna): The president of the UN General Assembly Joseph Garba today expressed deep concern over the stalemate in Mideast peace efforts.

In an interview with a local Arabic daily the senior UN official stated that the Mideast problem was taking "grave dimensions" due to continued tension resultant from the absence of a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He believed that the situation was aggravated by the fact that developments were "proceeding in favour of one party to the conflict without any balance," apparently referring to Israel.

Garba of Nigeria, who is currently here on his first visit to the Gulf region as the UN Assembly president, told the daily that if the United States denies the entry of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to its territory to address the UN assembly on the Palestinian cause once again, the world organisation would convene at any venue outside New York to facilitate Arafat's attending such a session.

The senior UN official called for strengthening Afro-Arab co-operation in view of the present international developments, saying the continuous changes in the world call for rapprochement between various blocs.

QC for national industries

A NEW system of quality control is to be introduced by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on national industries which is aimed at protecting consumers and enhancing confidence in national industries products.

Products approved in this manner will carry on them a brand which ensures the quality of the products. The brand will be issued by a neutral authority comprising members of the government, manufacturers and consumers. The brand will increase competition among producers and manufacturers as only approved products will carry the approval band.

A number of Kuwaiti factories have already submitted applications to have their products tested according to the new scheme.

Mrs Bader explained the new quality control system that aims at affixing unified measures for national industries by following scientific and legal methods. She said that consumers stand to benefit from the introduction of this system as it will ensure good quality products.

Preventive medicine

Vaccination campaign on against hepatitis B

By Diana Abou Halder
Arab Times staff

ALL new-born babies and most health workers are being vaccinated against hepatitis B as of the beginning of January, according to Ministry of Public Health sources.

"Prevention is more effective than treatment when dealing with hepatitis B," says Dr Mounir Guirgis of the ministry's Preventive Medicine Division. He explains that hepatitis B is a far more dangerous form of liver infection than treatable jaundice or hepatitis A which are common among children in Third World countries.

"It could cause destruction of the liver in a period ranging from six months to two years. There is no cure for this disease," Guirgis says.

He adds that this infection could be transmitted from mother to baby during delivery. "It could also be transmitted through blood, saliva, seminal fluid and vaginal secretion."

The ministry identifies 300 to 500 cases of hepatitis B annually. According to Guirgis, this is only



Dr Mounir Guirgis

the tip of the iceberg. He says that most cases are among health workers who have to deal with contaminated body fluids.

The vaccine is given to new-borns in three doses the first of which is administered on the day they are delivered. The second dose is given after three months

and the third when the baby is six months old.

"It is very important that mothers keep the blue card they are given after the birth of their babies. The card has information on appointments for the infants' vaccination that should be followed," Guirgis says.

The vaccination schedule for adults is different. "One month is allowed between the first and second dose, and five months between the second and third," Guirgis adds.

The ministry is vaccinating all doctors and medical laboratory technicians, nurses and sterilisation technicians, individuals at social care institutions, dialysis patients, patients with contagious blood diseases, new staff members at the ministry and all students at the Faculty of Medicine.

"The vaccine is very safe and provides 100 per cent protection against the disease," asserts Guirgis. He adds that the Preventive Medicine Division will be happy to answer any queries from the public about the subject.

Real estate funds law to be enacted

THE chairman of Al Tamdeen Real Estate Company Bader Naser Al Humaidi was quoted as confirming that the real estate market is one of Kuwait's economic landmarks particularly in the wake of enacting a law for setting up of Real Estate Funds.

In an interview with a local daily, the official has described the future of real estate as good in view of a lot of positive signs that may boost the trust among real estate dealers. He commented that his company which is registered in the Kuwaiti bourse will witness considerable progress which will reflect on its performance during the next few years.

He said that turnover in the real estate market had increased and demand was more than supply particularly for real estate designated for residential purposes.

With regard to the investment in the real estate sector, the official said that this has also witnessed significant development and the sales percentage in the real estates at the Capital and Salmiya ranges between eight to nine per cent while this percentage is 9.5 to 11 per cent at Jabriya and Riqi.

He added that land prices in the Capital are still very high and the price of buildings in Salmiya, Hawalli, Fahaaheel, Jahra, Farwaniya, Jleeb Al-Shaykh and Kheitan have considerably increased.

He expected that the demand for investment in commercial real estate will also witness a marked increase. Speaking of real estate companies listed in the Kuwait bourse, the official said although these companies had suffered during the Manakh crisis, they had presently recovered and their losses were being covered by reducing capital.

Replying to a question over sale of flats, the official said that the relevant law was enacted but it needs further regulations to streamline the dealing process.

The official disclosed that his company has expressed reservations over real estate investments abroad and has defined such investments at 10 per cent of the company's capital. Provided that the relevant project is subject to necessary studies. He added that the company prefers to concentrate its investments in the local market.

Obligations

Meanwhile, the official confirmed that his company was not affected by the debts settlement scheme and has no obligation to any party. He added that the company faces no problem in liquidating its real estate as the real estate market is active during the last period.

On the other hand, the official has commented that investment in real estate is guaranteed clarifying that sometimes the real estate market "might be sick but would not die." He added that the market may witness a slump period but will rebound actively.

He described real management in Kuwait to be sound but complained that real estate registration procedures were complicated and must be revised.

6765 traffic cases examined in December

THE traffic courts examined 6765 cases and contraventions during the months of December last year, of which 2255 were examined by the traffic court in Kuwait City, 2366 by the court in Hawalli, 1171 by the court in Ahmadi and 973 by the court in Jahra, a local daily said.

The total number of cases settled by the courts was 6496, of which 3580 cases were settled through normal channels

while 2916 others got a quick settlement.

Of all cases examined, 2188 involved collisions and 4308 acts of contraventions, while a total of KD166,000 was collected as fines, 109 cases resulted in jail terms and 191 licences were withdrawn.

The number of deaths involved in all these accidents was 22, five of which occurred in the Capital, six in Ahmadi and five in Jahra.

Training

Awadi added that the field training course lasts for three years and pharmacists will be evaluated at the end of the first year and later at the end of next two years. Trainees will be given KD 150 monthly remuneration in the first year, which would be increased by KD50 at the end of each year, provided the appointees still showed competence in his job, as decided by the relevant committee.

He said that trainee pharmacists would be appointed after the lapse of three years, but if appointment on grade was ruled out the annual salary increase to the monthly remuneration would continue until a maximum salary equalling the overall salary amount for the deserved grade is reached.

The trainee would be entitled to a paid annual leave of 15 days, and priority would be given to early appointees, and exceptions to the regulations would only be made by the minister as deemed necessary.



Paaet computer training course

A training course on computers, organised by the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (Paaet) on Dec 19, 1989 was concluded recently. The training course was attended by 17 trainees from the Council of Ministers, Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Public Health, Kuwait Municipality, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Electricity and Water and Paaet itself.

The graduation ceremony was patronised by the deputy director general of Paaet Humoud Al Mudhaf.

Suspended sentence for director of local company

THE Court of Misdemeanours sentenced a director of a local company to two weeks in jail, but gave him the option of paying a fine of KD50 to have the sentence suspended.

The court heard that the defendant who worked as deputy director-general, on learning that the plaintiff was assigned to work at his office, publicly derided her and claimed that she was far below the standard to work for him, although it was the director-general's decision.

The two engaged in a heated argument which resulted in their calling each other names in public. Based on testimony of witnesses, the court decided that the accused had initiated the scene. The court also reprimanded the woman for responding with unwomanly language.

The court ordered that the woman submit a written pledge stating that she would be committed to good conduct for a period of six months.

■ Detectives of Al Jahra Governorate apprehended a Kuwaiti citizen identified as Ali D for stealing video appliances, tapes, jewellery and some official papers from the residence of a woman identified as Hossah A. the public relations department at the Ministry of Interior reported.

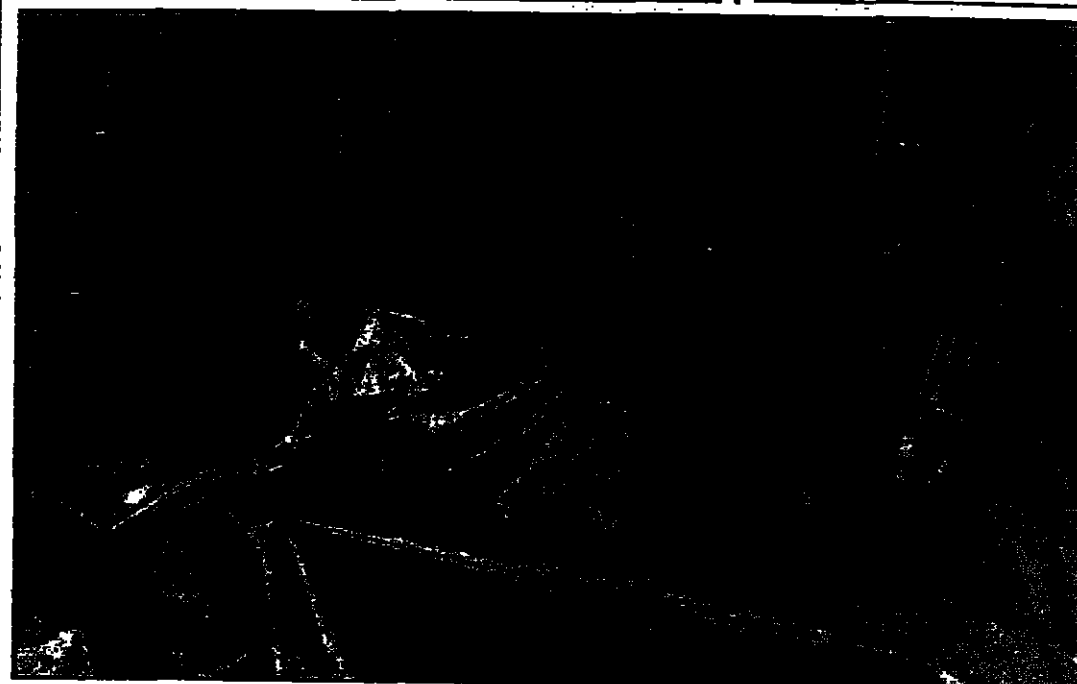
Investigations revealed that the accused was assisted in the crime by an accomplice identified as Ajeel F.

The stolen articles have been recovered and the suspects are presently under police custody.

■ Meanwhile the department reported that detectives of Hawalli Governorate have arrested a gang identified as Dawoud H., Abed M., Hashem A. and Ahmed A. all Syrians on charges of committing several thefts.

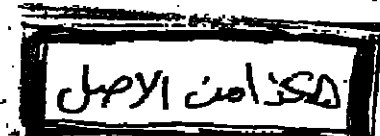
All the accused have been remanded to police custody.

■ Two defendants identified as Abdul Aziz M. Kuwaiti and Ali A. Iraqi were apprehended by detectives of Al Ahmadi Governorate on charges of stealing about 50 bags of dates belonging to an Iraqi national identified as Oudab M.



Yardley's new creation

Yardley's new creation "You're the Fire" is its 1990 fragrance. The rich perfume is a blend of Jasmine, rose, nutmeg and cedarwood. You're the Fire is available in the market in its attractive, fiery red packing. Picture shows the three standard range of the new fragrance of 30 ml cologne spray, 50 ml cologne spray and 200g tin-talc.



Telex service rates may be cut by 50pc

Study to reduce communications tariff

THE director of the International Accounts Department at the Ministry of Communications Maryam Mohammad Al Asfoor has said that a study is currently being conducted by the ministry to reduce the annual subscription rates for the telex service by 50 per cent.

She told a local daily that another study was being conducted to explore the possibility of reducing the tariff for outgoing satellite messages from Kuwait over the

Indian Ocean, and to establish the feasibility of leasing mobile channels to the public after reducing the rate per channel by over 50 per cent.

Services

She pointed out that these studies and related measures were commissioned in response to ministerial decision No. 58 for 1988, which provided for the reduction of telex communication services, annual subscription rate and fees for actual service

relay, which also included the marine telecommunication services; 'Inmarsat'.

Asfoor said that this was a recently introduced service due to its vital importance to businessmen in the economic and commercial sector which linked Kuwait through a number of similar coastal land stations to the Indian Ocean and to the Pacific via the Japanese and American stations.

She added that the proposed tariff

reduction for communications from ships to land and from ship to ship in the Atlantic Ocean was 25 per cent.

She announced that the operation of the night-call system is 7 pm till 1 the next morning. The tariff per word has been reduced from 105 to 75 for marine telecommunication involving land to ship and the tariff for marine telecommunication was reduced from 570 to 300, Asfoor said.

Information crucial for development plans: Rashed

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

THE vital role of official information in preparing and implementing national development plans, according to the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Rashed Al Rashed.

Addressing the participants in a keynote speech yesterday at the seminar on Official Information and its Role in Scientific Research Decision Making, the official called for utilising this opportunity to set up a national system for information services.

"Authenticated information is the primary factor in making decisions which steer the path of national development," said Rashed who is also chairman of the board of Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR).

Director-General of KISR Dr Ahmad Ali Al Jassar said in a separate speech that KISR, Kuwait University and Kuwait Foundation for Scientific Advancement are working jointly to produce thorough bibliographies in series, published occasionally.

He added that the institute has given worthy attention to KISR's National Centre for Scientific and Technological Information leading it to grow into a major source of information in the country and abroad.

This symposium, he asserted, was organised after a survey by a scientific team concluded that most of the departments in the government suffer from a lack of information in a variety of fields.

"This must be faced with joint effort to find a solution based on conscious planning leading to the service of development in the country," Jassar emphasised.

Studies by researchers from Kuwait University, the Arab League and the Gulf Co-operation Council will be presented to participants during the three-day symposium.

The first day of the seminar included three sessions during which, Abbas Al Mohamed of KISR said that development plans are based on and linked to clear facts and confirmed information.

Dr Mohamed Al Zuhairi of Kuwait University presented his research on official information and the factors affecting its services in Kuwait. The paper discussed the definition of official information, its producers and related publishing technology.

Zuhairi commented on the lack of a unified system to produce official information. As for printing such information, he said that some government establishments depend on their inhouse capabilities or commercial printers, rather than using the government printing press.

He further commented that the issue of distribution of official information is not subject to specific rules.

Talking about the main problems related to official information, Zuhairi enumerated the multiplicity of authorities producing such information, unavailability of demographic tools and regulations for storage and retrieval. He also cited other problems which included duplication of such information and the non-existence of an authority to organise such publications.

Firyal Al Frieih of KISR discussed on sources and types of official information which included libraries and information centres.

She stressed on the importance of handling and organising official information, setting up a national policy and legislation. She concluded her research with a number of recommendations, including setting up an independent authority for governmental publication and other specialised libraries.

The seminar will continue its sessions until Wednesday.



British educational books exhibition

Dr Yacoub Al Sharrah, assistant undersecretary for private education at the Ministry of Education, saw the exhibition of British educational books which opened Saturday at the Regency Palace Hotel. The exhibition will carry on until Feb 2 and is open from 9 am to 6 pm.

10 times quicker than humans

Machine translation inevitable, says expert

By Diana Abou Halder
Arab Times staff

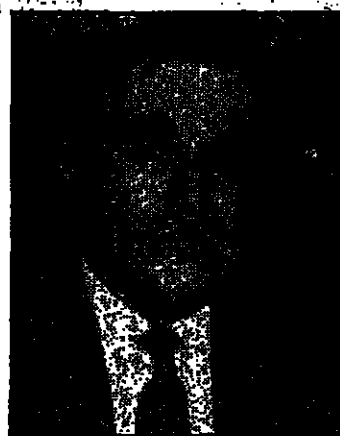
JUST like trains when they were first invented, machine translation today is rather clumsy, but soon enough there will be no stopping it, says a Soviet expert.

Speaking at a lecture at Kuwait University last week Professor Yuri Marchuk who is chairman of the Applied Linguistics Department at Moscow Lomonosov State University, said that machine translation is inevitable.

"Human translation is a bottleneck in the process of exchanging scientific and technical information. The volume of translation in the world is growing by 15 per cent every year," said Marchuk. He added that efforts towards developing a practical international language are not encouraging.

Marchuk says that machine translation is mostly used for scientific and technical texts because it is 10 times quicker than human translators. "But the finished product will always need editing. The editing isn't so heavy on some texts such as patents but on others, such as magazine articles, it is," said the ex-director of the Translation Institute in Moscow.

He smiles as he assures translators that they will stay in the market because machines cannot do all types of translations.



Marchuk ... speed

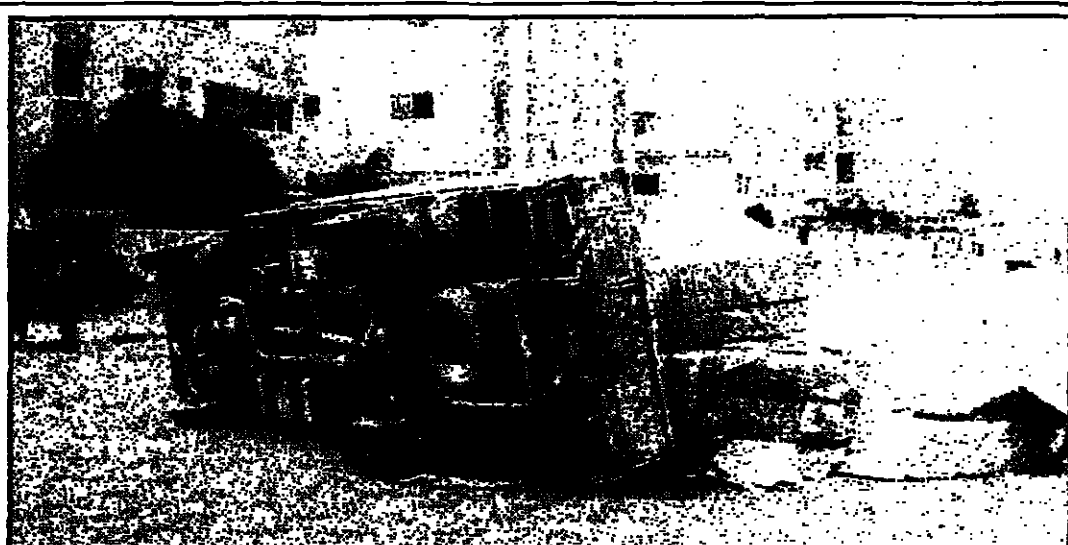
"Machine translation is limited to certain kinds of translations that are not liked by humans anyway such as manuals, patents and inventory lists," adds Marchuk.

The Soviet expert predicts that machine translation will become cheaper than human translation in five years. "We need a breakthrough in linguistic theory and artificial intelligence in order to teach machines how to translate better and faster," he says.

Marchuk says that 5 to 7 per cent of the total volume of scientific translations in the Soviet Union are done by computer. "We have commercially available systems that translate from English into Russian."

He added that research on machine translation in the Soviet Union started in the '50s. Marchuk says that although Soviets are behind in manufacturing computer hardware and making it available, they are ahead in programming, linguistic theory and mathematics.

"We are working on manufacturing our own computers, so far they are not on high standards, but in our country, when we're intent on something, we achieve it in a few years," Marchuk said confidently.



Overloaded turn of events

This vanette which was overloaded with newspaper rolled on to its side as the driver tried to take a sharp turn in the newspaper area. The driver and the newspaper suffered no damage. (Photo by Ahmed Burini)

Refai to follow up Euphrates dispute

KUWAIT, Jan 29, (Kuna): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed announced today that he assigned Kuwaiti Ambassador to Ankara Faisal Al Refai to follow up his mediation efforts with Turkish officials on Ankara's decision to block flow of Euphrates river into Syria and Iraq for 30 days.

Sheikh Sabah had sent a message three days ago to Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz within Kuwaiti efforts to eliminate any possible differences emerging after Turkey's decision which was taken to fill the Ataturk Dam.

Kuwait's efforts had started after Sheikh Sabah received a message from his Iraqi counterpart Tarek Aziz last week.

Sheikh Sabah declared that so far he did not receive any official response from the Turkish foreign minister on his letter and that he assigned Ambassador Refai to pursue the issue with the Turkish foreign ministry.

The Kuwaiti chief diplomat affirmed that Kuwait had agreed to launch the mediation efforts after it was totally convinced that the measure harms interests of sister countries Iraq and Syria.

He said that the matter "bothers us and we do not accept it" because "we want the Arab countries' relations with friends and neighbours to be strong and based on co-operation and mutual respect."

Pakistanis urged to help poor back home

Haji Afzal Noor, president, Pakistan People's Club, Kuwait urged Pakistanis in Kuwait to set up a fund under the supervision of the Pakistan embassy to help the poor and needy in Pakistan. He was speaking at a dinner in honour of the members of Pakistani associations in Kuwait hosted by Second Secretary of the Pakistan embassy, Mohammad Akhtar Khan and Community Welfare Attache Rana Mohammad Iqbal at their residence Sunday.

"If every Pakistani working in Kuwait could contribute only KD1 per month, it would sufficiently help poor people back home," Noor said. He also stressed the need of unity among Pakistanis here in Kuwait. Each Pakistani has a right to maintain political affiliations back home but they should settle all their differences here in Kuwait. He further said that complete unity among Pakistanis would be a great service both for the country as well as Islam. All the participants favoured the proposals of the president of the Pakistan People's Club.

Another Arabic daily published a large front page headline reading "The Bear and the Dollar for stealing our homeland" in clear reference to the US-Soviet co-operation in directing the Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine. The paper also wrote its editorial on the same subject and blamed the Arab "incapability and inaction" for encouraging the Soviets to allow the outflow of Jews to



Wangchuck ends 3 day visit

The King of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck left here for Bahrain yesterday following an official three-day visit to Kuwait.

Wangchuck was seen off by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber in addition to the Amir Diwan minister, ministers and senior officials and dean of the diplomatic corps.

Wangchuck before departure told reporters that his talks with HH the Amir dealt with international issues, bilateral relations and means of boosting political and economic co-operation between the two countries.

The King hailed the Amir's internal and foreign policies and praised Kuwait as a credible mediator in Middle East and international disputes and conflicts.

He further expressed satisfaction over his visit and described his talks with HH the Amir and senior Kuwaiti officials as fruitful, adding they contributed to strengthening friendship, understanding and co-operation between the two countries.

He particularly paid tribute to HH the Amir's 1988 proposal at the United Nations for helping resolve the heavy debt crisis of Third World countries.

Signature campaign to stem Jew immigration

Soviet envoy to receive list

KUWAIT, Jan 29, (Kuna): A signature collection campaign has been launched here demanding that the Soviet Union stop the wave of Jewish Soviet immigration to occupied Palestine.

The campaign is being held following a Soviet decision to allow tens of thousands of Soviet Jews to leave for Israel after introducing direct air links between Moscow and Tel Aviv to ensure that the destination of the immigrants is Israel.

Two days ago Kuwaiti Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saud Al Ossaimei expressed Kuwait's concern for this immigration which he described as a big threat to the Palestinian crisis which is taking place at a time when Israel rejects all peace efforts.

The campaign organisers said that they are going to present a list of signatures to the Soviet ambassador here urging the Soviet leadership to stop the waves of immigration to occupied Palestine.

In a related move a local Arabic daily published a front page message in protest against the Soviet Jewish immigration. The paper asked readers to sign the message and send it to the Soviet embassy in Kuwait. The message is addressed to the Soviet leader, Gorbachev and titled "A message from an Arab citizen to President Gorbachev. The letter said that the migration of the Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine is construed as direct support to Israel to continue its expansionist and aggressive policy. The letter also appeals to Gorbachev to block Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine.

Editorial
Another Arabic daily published a large front page headline reading "The Bear and the Dollar for stealing our homeland" in clear reference to the US-Soviet co-operation in directing the Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine. The paper also wrote its editorial on the same subject and blamed the Arab "incapability and inaction" for encouraging the Soviets to allow the outflow of Jews to

Israel. The editorial entitled "No Place For The Weak" called upon Arabs to react quickly in adopting a decision to confront the new immigration policy.

Meanwhile reports from the occupied territories said that the budget of the Israeli Ministry of Immigration and Absorption will reach more than two billion Shekels, with an increase by one and a half billion compared with the figures last year.

Sources of the Finance Ministry said that if Israel faces new problems concerning absorption it is likely to ask for a loan of \$400 million from the US and will raise money from internal resources.

According to the sources 40,000 apartments are to be built during the new year instead of the previous plan of 20,00 to absorb the new comers.

Palestine Ambassador to Kuwait Awni Battash yesterday said that the Soviet Union can find means enabling Soviet Jews to immigrate to areas other than Palestine.

Battash said that Moscow is capable of helping Soviet Jews to immigrate to countries they wish to go to, pointing out that majority of them do not wish to resettle in Palestine.

The Palestinian ambassador, who was addressing a press conference at the International Fair Grounds in Mishrif on the occasion of the near end of the second Palestine Week which coincides with the week in solidarity with Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails, said that he voices the opinion with all due respect to the friendship with the Soviet Union.

Battash said that the US biased stance toward Israel does not serve the Mideast peace process and contradicts the doctrine of human rights advocated by Washington and does not make the latter an acceptable partner in the peace process.

He underlined that Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir, despite the American greenlight coupled with unlimited support, could not terminate the heroic Palestinian Intifada with all the

repressive and inhuman measures practiced in the process.

Freedom is not granted but rather should be fought for "and we will seek with all methods to attain our rights in full, namely in self-determination, return and establishment of an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital," the ambassador went on.

The Palestine week is merely a modest contribution to the Intifada that does not reach the level of sacrificing blood and soul, he underlined.

Battash, meanwhile, praised the European stance toward the Palestine cause with the exception of Britain whose stand he described as "perplexing."

Britain shoulders a moral responsibility toward Palestine and the Palestinian people who are looking forward to an effective and supportive British stand in harmony with the European one, he elaborated.

Battash was apparently referring to the British Foreign Secretary Lord Balfour's declaration of 2nd November, 1917 which sympathised with the Jewish dream to have a state on the land of Arab Palestine and which later developed into facilitating that mission with Palestine under British mandate in the period between and after the two World Wars.

The Palestinian diplomat thanked Kuwait's Amir, government and people for their stable stance and backing the Palestinians and their cause and thanked in particular Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad for patronising the week and chairman and board members of the International Exhibitions Company for allowing the week on the fair ground.

Battash called on Arab nationals living in Kuwait to visit the week, which displays various products including those by Palestinians in Occupied Palestine, affirming that revenues will go for the support of the Intifada raging uninterrupted since December 1987.

Attitude of patients a problem, says official

800 treated daily at Al Adan

AL ADAN hospital, one of the modern hospitals in Kuwait equipped with all modern equipments, covers the need of patients coming from remote areas particularly residents at the tenth area. The hospital was established to cater to the increase in population.

A local daily visited the hospital to highlight health and treatment services and problems it encounters. An interview was conducted with the deputy director of Al Adan Hospital, Dr Adnan Al Eidan and a number of section heads and officials at the hospital.

Eidan stated that one of the main problems facing the hospital administration and medical staff is dealing with patients. He added that efforts should be made from both sides to upgrade the level of this relationship and to provide patients with the required awareness to understand all health and treated stages. He stressed that such programmes should direct efforts to strengthen trust between patients and medical staff.

Accident victims

With respect to the number of patients received at the hospital Eidan pointed out that Al Adan Hospital receives approximately 800 patients daily adding that these patients are mainly victims of traffic accidents.

He indicated that Adan Hospital includes all specialties like surgery, internal, maternity, ear and nose, eyes and others. He said that the casualty section at the hospital is able to cover and receive all accidents, though some cases which require special care are transferred to Al Sabah Hospital.

He pointed out that 150 beds will be added to the hospital very soon

to compensate for the increase in population. He added that the hospital currently has a total of 561 beds. With the fast increase of housing projects on the Fifth Ring Road, there will be a need to establish another hospital to cover services, the official said.

Eidan added that the hospital suffers from the shortage in the number of nurses pointing out that this problem is common all over the world. At present, the hospital requires a total of 139 additional nurses to cover patients services.

Developed

On the other hand, Dr Mahmoud Abdul Khaleq, from the blood diseases unit at the hospital said that the blood diseases unit is considered to be one of the hospital laboratories and consists of four units. He pointed out that laboratories at Adan Hospital are considered highly developed in the field of computer applications. All laboratory results and tests are computerised and information can easily and rapidly be retrieved.

The head of the Social Service Section at the hospital, Falah Mohammed Al Ajmi stated that social specialists assist patients during their hospitalisation period to adapt to their new surroundings in the hospital. He added that the social specialists play an important role in spreading health awareness and guidance among residents and university students to become social specialists.

He pointed out that the high number of suicides and the high number of elderly individuals indicate alarming sign. He revealed that statistics indicate that suicide incidents are highest among housemaids.

Awadi forms committees against Aids

KUWAIT, Jan 29, (Kuna): Planning Minister and acting Minister of Public Health Abdul Rahman Al Awadi has formed an enlightenment, health and media committee against Aids.

The committee, which will be headed by Assistant Health Undersecretary for Public Health Affairs Ali Al Saif, is to spread public

awareness on this disease and on preventive means.

The committee will prepare a health enlightenment plans through media means and prepare some educational seminars and meetings to inform the people about the risk of the disease.

The committee will also provide some educational information on Aids and the

latest research and development in this field published by international educational magazines.

Newsletters and advertisements will be prepared by the committee in co-ordination with other departments in the country to implement the health enlightenment plan against Aids.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

SHALLOW men believe in luck — Ralph Waldo Emerson, US writer (1803-1882).

Fate in two months' time

Gorby could get the sack

STOCKHOLM, (Reuter): Swedish Professor Anders Aslund, author of a book on the Soviet Union under perestroika, is convinced that the fate of Mikhail Gorbachev and his reforms will be decided in the next few months.

Aslund's "Gorbachev's Struggle for Economic Reform" — is the book which Newsweek magazine places "at the top of Washington's reading list."

Aslund himself would agree. "The Secretary of State James Baker outlined new US policy in three speeches in October and November. He concluded that Gorbachev's perestroika was the best Soviet policy the US could ever hope for."

"Baker's analysis is based to a large degree on my book which he used as a source with footnotes and all in a speech to the Senate. It is an exceptionally wise analysis, very close to my own," he said.

Diplomat

Aslund, a professor of economics and former diplomat to Moscow, concluded in his book that the Soviet economy was much weaker than estimated by the US Central Intelligence Agency and most Western analysts, and the military burden far greater.

Unlike many analysts he sees Gorbachev, the Soviet President and Communist Party chief, as a man committed to Western ideas such as market economics and democracy but who lacks the political power to set the Soviet Union on a truly liberal course.

The professor predicted last autumn's fall of the Czechoslovak regime. He was correct. He predicted the early resignation of East German leader Egon Krenz. Right again.

Now Aslund says Gorbachev has slim chances of surviving the next two months, and hopes he is wrong.

If the President's conservative opponents are to oust him, they must act before regional and local elections in March, Aslund recently told a group of foreign correspondents in Stockholm.

Logic

"The logic of the situation demands that this is when Gorbachev falls from power. Even the party apparatus itself says it will be wiped out in these elections. The conservative apparatus will cease to exist in March," he said.

Aslund sees the Lithuanian Communist Party's break with Moscow last month — the first split in party ranks since the 1917 revolution — rather than the current ethnic unrest and nationalism in the southern Azerbaijan republic as the main threat to Gorbachev.

"If Gorbachev recognises the independent Lithuanian party, a conservative majority on the Politburo will oust him."

"If he expels them, he will lose all authority with his liberal supporters, making it easy for the conservatives to push him out," he said.

Aslund, 37, spent three years at Sweden's embassy in Moscow after Gorbachev came to power, giving him an early chance to research the new openness under glasnost.

"Misinformation has largely played out its role in the Soviet Union. There is a variety of reliable open sources, and by talking to high-level officials you can find out the real facts about what is happening there."

Aslund is reluctant to count out Gorbachev. "He is probably the most skilled politician in the world so one presumes he will find a way out of this situation."

"But the critical thing is that (centrist) Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov has no sympathy whatsoever for aspirations of the Baltic republics, and Gorbachev normally needs Ryzhkov's support if he is to gain a Politburo majority."

Solution

"A solution for Gorbachev could be that another crisis which pits other Politburo groupings against each other, not Gorbachev versus Ryzhkov, moves to centre stage," he said.

"But it is very hard to believe in this solution." If Gorbachev falls, he will be replaced by authoritarian rule combined with cautious economic reform under Ryzhkov, Aslund believes.

"Ryzhkov is the only other politician with any standing in the country. Gorbachev has skillfully destroyed the two conservative alternatives, (Politburo members) Yegor Ligachev and Lev Zaikov — by unleashing... (radical reformist) Boris Yeltsin on them."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1522 — Lubeck declares war on Denmark and lays waste to Bornholm.

1641 — Portuguese surrender Malacca in Malaya to the Dutch.

1648 — Peace between Spain and the Netherlands is signed at Münster.

1788 — Charles Edward Stuart, young pretender to British throne, dies in Rome.

1902 — Britain signs treaty with Japan providing for independence of China and Korea.

1933 — Adolf Hitler is named Chancellor of Germany.

1943 — Soviets destroy German army southwest of Stalingrad in World War II.

1948 — Mahatma Gandhi is assassinated by a Hindu in New Delhi, India.

1957 — United Nations calls on South Africa to reconsider its apartheid policy.

1962 — UN General Assembly adopts Asian-African resolution calling on Portugal to halt repressive measures against Angola.

1964 — South Vietnamese General Nguyen Khanh seizes power in coup in Saigon.

1970 — Two students are killed and more than 200 wounded as demonstrators storm presidential palace in Philippine capital of Manila.

1972 — British troops kill 13 civilians during rioting in Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

1979 — White Rhodesians approve new constitution to eventually give blacks control of the nation.

1984 — Libya's leader Muammar Khaddafi, in interview with French radio network, warns there could be military escalation in Chad because of France's new defence line in that North-Central African nation.

1986 — President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines pledges to relinquish power peacefully if he loses to Corason Aquino in the Feb 7 election.

1988 — Prince Norodom Sihanouk says he is resigning as head of Cambodia's anti-Vietnamese coalition.

1989 — United States closes its embassy in besieged Afghan capital of Kabul.

Hong Kong to force them back to Vietnam

Boat people live in squalor

HONG KONG, (AP): Vietnamese boat people endure boredom and constant stress at squalid detention centres in Hong Kong, battling disease, overcrowding and government attempts to ship them home, social workers say.

Independent social workers paint a bleak picture of the living conditions for 44,000 Vietnamese held in nearly one dozen detention centres throughout this British colony.

The boat people face repatriation to their communist homeland against their will unless they prove they fled persecution or volunteer to return.

In the meantime, Hong Kong's government has refused reporters' repeated requests to visit the camps, saying they are not open to journalists. But social workers report grim conditions in the detention centres, though Hong Kong officials say they're doing their best to make the camps livable.

At Chi Ma Wan camp, according to one social worker, idle Vietnamese men stare blankly into space and the air reeks of open drains. At Shek Kong in the rural new territories, boat people live in tents pitched on an old runway.

Most of the camps are packed beyond official capacity, with each boat person typically allotted a tiny space on a three-tiered bunk bed to call home.

Health

"There is no private space for any purpose," said Steven Muncy, executive director of Family and Community Service International, which provides social and mental health services to the boat people. A government spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, said pinkeye, diarrhoea and chicken pox are common in the testing centres.

Dr. van Gelderen, refugee co-ordinator for International Social Service, that provides educational and recreational programmes, said the camps appear calm during the day, but rapes and other physical assaults break out at night.

Factional fighting has broken out frequently in the camps, and police report five Vietnamese died last year in the clashes.

The government has arrested some boat people accused of violence and has taken steps to separate what it claims are feuding groups from different provinces.

"When large numbers of people are kept cooped up in camps, particularly in hot weather, there is bound to be a great deal of discomfort and frustration," Secretary of Security Geoffrey Barnes said when riots broke out last summer. "Temperatures become short and incidents are bound to occur occasionally."

A government spokeswoman, who declined to be named, said the government has tried its best to provide housing for the boat people.

She acknowledged living conditions were poor last summer when Vietnamese were arriving by the thousands each month and Hong Kong didn't have enough camps to cope with the influx. Many were placed on an island that had few facilities.

The government spent \$66.2 million to build and run the camps in the latest fiscal year, she said.

Some boat people gather at night to discuss how to oppose the forced repatriation programme that began Dec 12, when Hong Kong security forces whisked 31 people from the Whitehead holding centre to the airport before dawn for a flight to Hanoi.

"Whitehead is a time bomb after the first (forced) repatriation. You can feel it in the camp. People sleep with their shoes on in case police get them at night. Some sleep at daytime so they can be awake at night," Van Gelderen said.

A refugee worker who spoke on condition of anonymity added: "The men are all mobilized to attack people who come in to get them. At night they organize patrols to watch the guards."

When security forces entered one camp a few weeks ago for a weapons search, it touched off a riot among the inmates.

Occasional searches by officials have turned up



A Vietnamese refugee boy looks from behind the fence of a Hong Kong police truck door locked by a handcuff. (Reuter wirephoto)

hundreds of homemade knives and other edged weapons; security forces have expressed concern for their own safety.

Crucial

The crucial event for each Vietnamese is an interview with immigration officials to determine whether they will be considered political refugees eligible for resettlement or illegal immigrants who fled to Hong Kong solely to raise their standard of living.

Amnesty International, the London-based human rights organization, claims the screening interviews have many flaws, including incompetent interpreters and immigration officials who are not familiar with the situation in Vietnam.

The government rejected the claim that the benefit of the doubt always goes to the asylum seeker.

Social workers also have sharply criticised the living conditions the Vietnamese face as they await word on their fate.

"What disturbs me is that they live behind bars," said Van Gelderen. "My first concern is that they can't get out and that's detrimental."

Boredom is a constant irritant.

"One of the biggest problems in closed camps is that they (the Vietnamese) don't have anything to do," said Steve Reynolds of World Vision, a Los Angeles-based humanitarian and development organisation.

The Iron Curtain crumbles

LUZMANNBURG, Austria, (AP): One crisp evening, as Eastern Europe was becoming free, an old man named Johan Pavits sat near the Hungarian border fence and remembered a December day in 1948.

That was when the barbed wire went up between Lutzmannsburg in Austria and Zsira in Hungary, and soldiers came from the Hungarian hinterland. They knew little of the bonds that had tied the two villages for generations. Innocently they asked a farmer for the loan of his pliers so they could tighten the wires in what would come to be known as the Iron Curtain.

"The world ended here. But it was only half a world. The other half was over there," said Pavits, gesturing with his callused labourer's hand at the lights coming on in Zsira, 300 yards (metres) east.

"And now the barbed wire is being taken away, and the world is whole again."

The world is whole again — it was a refrain heard constantly by an Associated Press reporter and photographer on a journey from Travemunde, the West German port where the Iron Curtain began, with watchtowers and high fences, to Trieste, the Italian port where it ends in a rusty, shin-high rail.

The most vivid image of the cold war was in collapse: border walls piled in useless slabs; the barbed wire from uprooted Czechoslovak fences coiled by the roadside; deserted, padlocked watchtowers.

Countryside once quiet, divided and remote now was alive with traffic jams of East German day-trippers coming West, with tearful villagers surging through fences to meet neighbours for the first time, with a ferry boat making its first crossing of the Elbe river in 44 years, and with East and West German border guards, who once glared at each other, now chatting as though they always had been friends.

Euphoria

It was a time of pure euphoria, when people everywhere welcomed each other with open arms, and the politicians and armies along the Iron Curtain suddenly became mere onlookers.

The Iron Curtain, the image popularized by Sir Winston Churchill in a speech March 5, 1946, at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri ("an iron curtain has descended across the continent"), now would need an epitaph.

On the Baltic: The Iron Curtain begins with a string of buoys in the Baltic sea and then a row of border posts marching ashore at the Prival peninsula, at the West German port of Travemunde.

Here, just weeks after East Germany opened its borders, is a sense of what the Iron Curtain was: freedom up to the border markers, with strollers braving the icy December wind; then barbed wire and watchtowers looming forbiddingly out of the fog.

Then, six miles (10 kilometres) south, comes the first sign of change: the quiet checkpoint of Schlutup

buzzing with Trabants, the smoky little East German cars that have become the most immediate symbol of the new freedoms.

New holes were constantly opening in the 871-mile (1,401-kilometre) chain of walls, fence and watchtowers of the German-German border.

At Hitzacker, 50 miles (80 kilometres) south of Luebeck: a ferry toots its horn, the last passengers scramble aboard and it chugs off on a six-minute voyage to the East German bank of the Elbe river. Michael Bresse, 31, is skipping the first service across the Elbe since April 1945, when his grandfather's ferry was sunk by American artillery.

As soon as he had heard the border was opening, he says, he sent leaflets to the East German village across the river: "Be at the fence on Nov 18; we're coming to fetch you."

In the past, such audacity would certainly have gotten him arrested.

Now he finds hundreds of East Germans waiting for him, pressing against the fence, shouting, "Open the gate." The East German guards refuse, but they soon cave in. So many cheering, weeping people clamor aboard that the ferry is briefly grounded.

Philippsthal, in Hessen state: As American soldiers patrol, bulldozers open a new crossing. Two US soldiers walk up, looking for pieces of the Iron Curtain as souvenirs. The East German guards are unco-operative, and the soldiers leave empty-handed.

Surge

An American patrol ambles up to the 650-year-old bridge linking Philippsthal to Vacka. The soldiers gaze at the crowds walking over the bridge past an ugly gray watchtower. The Philippsthal people pay no attention, but across the way, the East Germans, never having seen "the enemy," seem fascinated.

Sunday in Autzenhausen in Bavaria: At 10:15 am, a gate in the old border fence opens and people are reunited with neighbouring Lindenu.

Hundreds surge through, led by a brass band. An East German border guard, poised to stamp passports, is washed aside in the flow.

"Forget it," his commander tells him. "This is hopeless."

The two villages look remarkably alike: Half-timbered houses, narrow lanes, farm smells. But for 35 years they saw nothing of each other except their respective church steeples, about a mile (kilometre) apart.

Lindenu, East Germany: Herbert Angermueller, 65, who was born here, is back for the first time since 1944.

Each time he starts a sentence, he interrupts himself with a gasp or a cry: The old smithy, his old bedroom window, the fountain whose splashing sang him to sleep as a boy. And there, in a doorway — could it be? He bursts into tears and falls into the

arms of Augusta Beyer, 83, his next-door neighbour those many years ago.

Bratislava, Czechoslovakia: This city of 500,000 lies right on the Iron Curtain but now it seems as if it had just experienced a liberating explosion.

Posters and political cartoons adorn every wall and shop window. A building displaying a hammer and sickle of communism is festooned with 25 protest banners.

For the first time in 20 years the newspapers contain real news, and people form long lines to buy them.

Until a few days earlier, residents of Bratislava's high-rise apartments could only look across the Danube into Austria and into the eyes of freedom. Biema is just an hour's drive away, but to go there people had to have official permission, fill in reams of forms and leave behind a close relative to guarantee their return. Now they just go off in the car; visa requirements for Austrians and Czechoslovakians were abolished in time for Christmas.

Hegyesalom checkpoint on the Hungarian border: Guards wave lines of cars through and the duty free shop is doing brisk business. Crossing this border used to take hours, as cars were searched for Bibles, Western magazines and hidden escapees.

Along the roads, signs offer tourists rooms for rent, churches and shops are open, a picture of Christ is tacked to a tree, and little is left to suggest that this had once been one of the toughest communist countries in Europe.

Lutzmannsburg, Austria: Heinz Ritter is a 50-year-old schoolteacher and local historian whose scrapbooks and photos now are helping nearby Hungarian scholars fill the blanks created by communist censorship.

"They have the same problem that my generation had after Hitler: to find out what was true, what really happened," Ritter says.

History

"You can't flee history."

In Ritter's father's diary, the entry for Dec 14, 1948, records the departure of Laszlo Kobor, Lutzmannsburg's handyman. Kobor returned to his village of Zsira, 300 yards (metres) away in Hungary. Then the fence went up, and he didn't come back for 41 years. Now 60, he is back in Lutzmannsburg, moving lawns and painting window frames.

Trieste: In Winston Churchill's description, this Italian port on the Adriatic was the southern end of the Iron Curtain.

Trieste became a cold war flashpoint when Yugoslavia claimed it after World War II. But the dispute was settled in 1954. Yugoslavia left the Soviet bloc, and the frontier at Trieste is largely unfenced. Thousands of Yugoslavs travel to Trieste to work or shop, while Triestinis own summer houses on Yugoslavia's Istrian peninsula.

Europe's ideological divide finishes at Muggia, the Venetian quarter of Trieste.

Letters to the editor

UMO clarification

SIR: With reference to various letters which appeared in the "Letter to the Editor" column, the executive committee of the United Malayalee Organisation (UMO) intends to clarify the following:

The United Malayalee Organisation (UMO) is a joint forum of ten Malayalee cultural organisations existing in Kuwait aimed at looking after the socio-cultural well-being of the Indian community in general and Keralites in particular. We are committed to work for the welfare of the country as a whole with the close co-ordination of Kuwait and India with close co-ordination of our embassy.

The executive committee of UMO consists of 20 members and general council 30 members equally represented by member organisations. According to the by-laws UMO conducts office bearers' elections on every first quarter of the year and functions throughout on democratic basis.

While UMO always hails and welcomes the positive and constructive criticism in the interests of the organisation, it refutes all the allegations raised against the office bearers and the organisation in general on fabricated and false grounds. We strongly reject and protest against the issue of the national anthem implicating the UMO officials and family members and believe that such criticism started from an unknown source out of prejudice or personal grudge. In a big function such as the concluding programme of 'Bharat Mela' in which school students and amateur artists participated, certain lapses are understandable. The slip of tongue of a student while reciting the national anthem and presentation of an imaginary character by another student in the fancy dress competition are not deliberate incidents. We also reject the statement that the photograph of one UMO official was published in the weekly 'Vanitha' printed in Kerala.

Regarding the educational assistance scheme of UMO, it is true that the notifications were made in various news media to collect applications. For the 1987 UMO scholarship scheme also such notifications were given. We collected the applications in two centres in Kerala and received here by our own arrangement.

The word 'adoption' was used but the intention was clarified as providing expenses for the course of study only and not the life adoption scheme as somebody misunderstood. The request of the applicants also pertains to that only. All the applicants are college-going children, but with poor financial background. We have not abandoned this scheme. It is being implemented with the co-operation of community members and well-wishers. We are presenting the bio-data of the children to the prospective sponsors and rest of the procedure will be confidential between the applicant and the sponsor. From the remaining applicants, a good number of children will be awarded scholarship directly from the UMO fund. We earnestly request one and all to co-operate with us in this noble venture.

The affiliation of any cultural organisation with UMO is most welcome. We have not stopped anyone, but for the technical reasons raised by the screening committee on one occasion. In this connection, this notification may be treated as an open invitation to any Keralite cultural organisation to join UMO and work for the welfare of the community as a whole, within the rules and regulations.

We take this opportunity to clear the minds of elite readers that UMO activities are restricted to socio-cultural fields only and request not to implicate the business activities of anyone of the members of our member organisations with UMO.

We remember with gratitude all the co-operation and encouragement received from the public in our social ventures in the past and present. The donation of Rs 111,111.00 to the relief fund of Kerala, granting of lump sum scholarship to more than 400 children in 1987, donation of blood by more than 100 volunteers on the occasion of 25th National Day of Kuwait, and providing food for the starving brothers as a joint venture with others were successfully carried out with public co-operation. The government of India, the authorities in Kuwait and Air-India are to be thanked for granting UMO request to re-establish direct flight to Trivandrum in 1987 and scheduling additional flights on a 'as required basis'. The reduction in transport charges of human remains was also allowed by the authority on our request. UMO gives priority to the interest of the poor and common man while taking up such issues with our embassy, Air-India or higher authority.

'Bharat Mela' 1987 and 1989 in connection with 40th anniversary of Independence Day of India and Nehru Birth Centenary respectively with maximum participation of school children, various seminars, symposiums and receptions to visiting dignitaries and artists from India, shuttle tournament, awarding UMO trophies in the first Kerala Football tournament in Fakhel, assistance to embassy in furnishing the embassy hall, are part of the activities of UMO in the past. UMO co-operates with our embassy in all occasions of national importance and other particular issues.

Last, but not least to mention is that UMO being a reputed organisation in the socio-cultural field of Indian community in Kuwait, appreciates the interest shown in our activities and calls upon all critics to give their creative suggestions to it, if there are any, to achieve more positive results in the future.

Aby Thomas Varikkad,
General Secretary.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Quote me

"The Yankees are euphoric because they believe we will be isolated and cannot resist. There are even some who have virtually extended condolences because they believe the revolution will not survive the chances in the socialist bloc." — Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

"Latin America is very worried by the situation Cuba faces, because they know that if the revolution falls it would drag down with it the independence and liberty of these nations against the advance of imperialism." — Fidel Castro.

Moscow cannot stop Jews flow

Arab leaders denounce 'superpower conspiracy'

AMMAN, Jan 29, (Agencies): Moscow can do little to stop the flow of Soviet Jews to Israel, Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Alexander Zinchuk said in remarks published today.

"We are in a difficult position over the issue of immigration to Israel," Zinchuk told the Jordan Times.

"Practically there is very little we can do to control the flow of Soviet Jews to Israel, particularly since the United States has imposed a quota on the number of Soviet Jews it would take as immigrants."

Zinchuk said most of the emigrants were not leaving their home country for religious reasons but to seek better economic conditions. Their first-choice destination was the West.

"But now that the flow to the United States is curtailed, they are compelled to turn to Israel," he added.

"The emigration and free travel are all part of our liberalisation policy and we simply cannot impose any restrictions on Soviet Jews alone while allowing others to leave the country," Zinchuk declared.

He said Moscow was ready to take part in any effort, possibly through the United Nations, to ensure that Israel does not settle Soviet Jews in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The United States should also be asked to increase its quota for Soviet Jewish immigrants, he said.

Zinchuk said Moscow was discussing the issue with the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Arab governments.

He said the problem had not damaged Soviet-PLO relations.

Zinchuk reiterated Moscow's call for an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict. "We are also ready to contribute to a preliminary meeting to narrow the differences among the involved parties ahead of the conference," he said.

The PLO, trapped between

"When we opened the door (for emigration), they closed theirs," the English-language daily quoted him as saying.

Israel expects 50,000 to 100,000 Soviet Jews to arrive this year and up to 750,000 over the next five or six years. The United States says it will accept 50,000 Soviet refugees a year.

The influx has alarmed Palestinians and Arab states. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir called this month for a "big Israel", including the occupied West Bank and Gaza strip, to accommodate the newcomers.

Arafat holds Mideast talks with Mubarak

CAIRO, Jan 29, (UPI): PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak held extensive talks yesterday aimed at co-ordinating their peace moves in the Middle East.

Mubarak's talks with Arafat followed his lengthy discussions in the Egyptian capital on Wednesday with Shimon Peres, Israel's Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister.

Peres had expressed optimism that the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue would open soon in Cairo.

Peres also said two Palestinian deportees could be included in the Palestinian delegation but ruled out any role by the PLO.

Mubarak has said Israel would be wrong if it thought a solution of the Palestinian issue could be achieved in the absence of the PLO or that the elections it is proposing for Palestinians in the

Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip could produce a leadership to replace the PLO.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has proposed elections for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Al Ahran said in its early editions today that US Secretary of State James Baker has relayed to Cairo his response to a set of proposals made by Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid.

The newspaper said Abdel Meguid had laid down five basic proposals in the form of a memorandum Cairo wants Washington to commit itself to in governing the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Baker responded with a draft letter to Abdel Meguid, emphasizing Washington's view of how to push the peace-making process in the Middle East, the newspaper said.

liberalised Soviet emigration policy and tight immigration quotas in the United States, meets in Tunis today to discuss the challenge from a mass exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel.

The 15-man Executive Committee of the PLO will look at ways to persuade Moscow to put a brake on Jewish emigration and to get Washington to raise its intake quota.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, in a speech in Cairo last Saturday, said he was not against Jews living the Soviet Union as long as they did not go to Palestine.

Arab League Secretary-General Cheddi Klibi said today a

massive influx of Soviet Jews would "reinforce the intransigence and obstinacy of Israeli extremists and reduce to nil the chances of a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region."

Arab League Assistant Secretary-General Adnan Omran told Reuters the Arabs felt there was a superpower conspiracy against them. "The Soviet Union wants to get rid of people it sees as troublemakers and the United States is in league with the Israelis on this," he added.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein blamed the United States today for an influx of Soviet Jews in Israel that he said is causing "plain and serious harm" to the

Palestinians.

He told reporters he considers American quotas for foreign immigrants discriminatory, leading almost inevitably to the settling of large numbers of Soviet Jews in Israel.

Saddam, who, ended a previously announced 24-hour visit and left for home this afternoon, spoke during a tour of Cairo's new international conference centre.

"This matter involves plain and serious harm to the Arabs generally and the Palestinians in particular," Saddam said.

"We regard the United States as a participant in this immigration because of its policies."

Record number of Arab homes destroyed and sealed in January

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 29, (Agencies): The army demolished or sealed 38 houses belonging to Palestinians in January, the second highest number since the uprising began, a human rights group said yesterday.

In a report, the Israel information centre for human rights in the occupied territories said that 20 houses were destroyed and 18 sealed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since the beginning of the year.

"This data indicate a substantial increasing in the use of demolition and sealing as punitive measures in the territories," the report said.

The group, founded by liberal Israeli politicians and academics, said that only the month of June 1989 registered more house demolitions and sealings with 42.

According to their figures, 432 houses have been demolished or sealed for revolutionary activities since the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule began in December 1987.

The latest army figure shows that 383 houses have been destroyed or sealed as of Jan. 18. It said that 22 had been destroyed and 20 sealed since Sept 10.

The army defends its policy of house demolitions and sealings by saying it serves as a strong deterrent against future unrest, but it has been criticized by the United States and human rights groups in Israel and abroad as collective punishment.

A study released Dec 20 by the Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies disputed army claims that house

demolitions reduced violence. It found that in many cases such measures inflamed the situation.

Meanwhile yesterday, police detained three Jewish activists of the right-wing Kach Party after they protested in front of the East Jerusalem home of Faisal Hussein, a pro-PLO Palestinian activist.

"They went too far this time," said Uzi Sandori, Jerusalem police spokesman. "We believe they planned to cause problems and disrupt the public order."

Sandori said the activists were brought before a court to be remanded in custody, but the judge released them on condition they do not approach within 100 metres of Hussein's house and refrain from harassing him in any way.

Euphrates diversion worries Iraq

AL-QAIM, Iraq, Jan 29, (AP): Agriculture Ministry officials are touring communities along the Euphrates River urging farmers to conserve water after Turkey diverted much of the river's flow Jan 13.

The Euphrates is the lifeline for 5.5 million Iraqis — about one-third of the country's population — who live in the Euphrates basin.

The Turks diverted much of the Euphrates water for one month to fill the reservoir at the giant Ataturk Dam, centerpiece of a major hydroelectric and irrigation project in their impoverished southeastern province of Anatolia.

The 1,460-mile (2,300-km) Euphrates originates in the mountains of eastern Turkey and runs through Syria and Iraq before flowing into the Gulf.

The Turkish action has triggered a poten-

tially explosive situation downstream in nations that rely on the river for irrigation and hydroelectric power for industry.

In mainly arid western Iraq, water has always been a precious commodity that has historically triggered feuds between tribes and clans — and even families.

Now officials fear that the Euphrates diversion will exacerbate these quarrels as water becomes scarcer than ever.

"Even the sub-surface water will likely be scarce, forcing the 17,000 people who live in this district alone to move to overcrowded towns and cities to find an alternative livelihood than agriculture," said Mukhtar Al Karbali, head of the farmers union in Al Qaim.

In this small town on the Syrian border, where the Euphrates flows through rocky desert hills into Iraq, irrigation officials

measure the river's flow level each hour and telephone their reports to Baghdad, capital of Iraq.

The Turks said their diversion would reduce the Euphrates flow to about one-quarter of the normal rate.

Before the diversion, the Turks released some 500 cubic metres (17,600 cubic feet) a second into Syria, which supplements this with tributary waters in its territory.

But by the time the Euphrates reaches Iraq, the flow is reduced to about one-third. That totals about 11 billion cubic metres (388 billion cubic feet) a year, 2 billion cubic metres (70 billion cubic feet) less than Iraq's irrigation needs alone.

Both Syria and Iraq have protested to Turkey about the diversion, scheduled to last just over two more weeks.

Relief workers evacuated from Juba

NAIROBI, Jan 29, (Reuters): The United Nations sent two planes to the besieged southern Sudanese city of Juba today to evacuate relief workers and their dependents.

Relief officials said between 40 and 100 foreign and Sudanese relief workers and their dependents were expected to fly to Khartoum, taking advantage of a 12-hour ceasefire offered by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

A further 36 were flown out to Nairobi yesterday and today on a cargo plane operated by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). LWF operations director Bob Koepf said.

The relief officials said the SPLA had shelled Juba three times in the last eight days, killing at least 25 civilians and threatening the air bridge of food supplies that enables the city of 300,000 people to survive.

They said most international relief agencies were planning to leave just one member of staff in Juba. "That obviously means that the relief programmes will be all but shut down," a UN official told Reuters.

"Obviously it must be psychologically very depressing for the people in Juba to see the relief workers leaving," another relief official said.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said it would use today's ceasefire to fly out two single-engine planes stuck in Juba since Sudan's military government banned relief flights in the south three months ago. Last week the government announced an easing of the ban.

But the ICRC plans to leave its four delegates in Juba and some Roman Catholic missionaries are also staying put.

The SPLA has urged the civilian population of Juba, which includes about 200,000 people displaced by the war, to leave before a full-scale attack on the army garrison.

In Khartoum, a UN spokesman told Reuters the flights to evacuate relief workers were arranged with the approval of the government and the SPLA at the request of foreign embassies with consulates in Juba.

Local officials have appealed to Juba's people to remain calm, while officials in Khartoum dismissed the SPLA threat to the city as imaginary and a propaganda ploy.

But foreign relief officials said authorities in Juba were preventing civilians leaving in the hope that their presence would deter the SPLA from launching an all-out attack.

A military communique issued in Khartoum said two civilians were killed and 17 houses were destroyed on Friday in the latest SPLA shelling of the city.

Sudan said today its troops had killed 130 rebels in recent battles outside the southern town of Juba.

State Radio Omdurman, quoting a military communique, also said two civilians were killed in Juba when SPLA rebels shelled the town on Friday.

A Saudi newspaper said today that two members of Khartoum's military government held secret talks in London with representatives of rebels.



Romanian minister in Cairo

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (right) meets Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Gelu Voican in Cairo on Jan 28. Voican, the first Romanian official to visit Egypt since President Nicolai Ceausescu was executed in Dec, said that candidates from his country's interim government would run in elections set for May 20. (Reuters wirephoto)

Syrian help sought to halt infiltration

AMMAN, Jan 29, (Reuters): Jordan hopes that talks with Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Zu'bi, who arrived in Amman today, will help to remove irritants in its delicate ties with Damascus.

Government sources and diplomats said a main topic would be a spate of border attacks on Israel from Jordanian territory, some claimed by Syrian-based Palestinian fighters.

On the Israeli side, three Israeli soldiers have been killed and six people wounded in about 10 border clashes over the past year. Four Arab infiltrators, including two Jordanian army deserters, have been killed and two captured.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran, sitting beside Zu'bi at the airport, told reporters that 83 "acts of infiltration" occurred on Jordan's border with Syria in 1989.

Some involved smuggling of drugs, cigarettes or sheep and "some factions also infiltrated with light weapons," he said. Badran said it was impossible to prevent all such activities and tried to minimise their significance.

"There is no problem worth focusing on regarding this matter," he said, adding that talks with Zu'bi would cover economic and trade ties, Arab politics and bilateral issues.

"Bolstering ties between Jordan and Syria is a vital link on the road to Arab solidarity and joint action to confront the Israeli

enemy which is constantly seeking to expand at the expense of Arab land," he declared.

He said Syria would stand by Jordan against "the Israeli settlement plans and the mission idea of (Jordan) as an alternative (Palestinian) homeland."

Zu'bi was accompanied by Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara, indicating that politics would be high on the agenda. Diplomats said Jordan would seek Syrian help in preventing incursions by Damascus-based Palestinian groups, including Fatah Uprising led by Abu Musa and Ahmed Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

"Abu Musa and the PFLP-GC are constantly trying to sabotage Jordan's relations with the PLO and to foil Yasser Arafat's peace strategy, which Jordan supports," one Arab diplomat said.

"There seems to be a Syrian scheme to heat up the Jordanian front," a government source said last week after two rocket launchers were found on Jordan's side of the ceasefire line.

Diplomats said Syria would ask Jordan to support its policy in Lebanon.

They said Damascus also wanted assurances that the emergence of the Muslim Brotherhood as a strong political force in Jordan following last November's general election would not threaten Syria.

Arab envoys to persuade US on Gulf peace

KUWAIT, Jan 29, (Kuna): Arab ambassadors to Washington were initiating efforts to persuade the US administration to accede to a recent initiative by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to reach peace with Iran, a Kuwaiti diplomat disclosed here today. (Reuters)

A delegation representing the ambassadors would meet US Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleberger for this purpose, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Washington Sheikh Saud Nasser Al Sabah told a Kuwaiti newspaper.

He said a decision for this effect was adopted by Arab Ambassadors' Council in the American capital last week. He did not set a specific date for the planned meeting with Eagleberger.

President Saddam, speaking at the 69th anniversary of the formation of Iraq's army early this month made his new peace initiative in which he urged Iran for direct talks in Baghdad and Tehran alternately to try and reach common understanding between the two countries for implementing UN Resolution 598 on the Gulf conflict.

The Iraqi initiative also called for immediate swap of sick and wounded prisoners of war between the two sides and for opening the two countries borders and airspace to allow Iraqi and Iranian pilgrims to visit holy shrines in both countries.

Arab League to discuss Eritrean rebellion

JEDDAH, Jan 29, (AP): The Eritrean rebellion will be discussed by Arab League foreign ministers for the first time ever during their regular session in Tunisia next March, Eritrean representatives said yesterday.

The Eritreans, whose 28-year-old guerrilla war is aimed at secession from Ethiopia, have long sought observer status at the 22-member League.

Osman Dandan, representative of the Eritrean Liberation Front-United Organisation (ELF-UO) in Saudi Arabia, told the Associated Press the Eritrean problem has been listed on the agenda of the next session of the Arab League's Council, which holds regular meetings in March and September at the level of foreign ministers.

He said the move came as a result of a meeting recently held at League headquarters in Tunis between the Secretary-General Cheddi Klibi and chairman of ELF-UO, Omar Sayed Mohammed Al Borji.

"The move comes against a backdrop of Israeli infiltration in Africa in light of restoration of diplomatic ties between Israel and Ethiopia," he said.

During his visit to Tunisia, Borji met with a number of officials including the foreign minister. He later visited Libya.

Dandan and Borji will soon fly to North Yemen for talks with President Ali Abdullah Saleh who is mediating to bring the Eritreans and Ethiopians to the negotiating table.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

French minister in Iraq talks

Resumption of arms sales

BAGHDAD, Jan 29, (Reuters): French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement discussed resuming arms sales to Iraq during talks with President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad, diplomat said today.

They said the resumption of sales, which ended after the Aug 1988 ceasefire in the Gulf war, was on the agenda in the French minister's talks yesterday.

He also met First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan, Defence Minister Abdul-Jabbar Shanah and Military Industrialisation Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan.

Iraqi officials refused to comment on the talks.

France was Iraq's biggest arms supplier after the Soviet Union during the eight-year war with Iran.

Inom re-elected

Turkey's main opposition Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP), riding a popularity wave despite internal squabbles, re-elected Erdal Inom as its chairman on Monday at the end of a two-day congress. (Reuters)

Islamic resurgence

A new Algerian opposition party hailed what it called the worldwide resurgence of Islam on Sunday and said Algeria should be in the vanguard.

The Party of Algerian Renewal (PRA), legalised in October, called for Algerian support for Islamic causes. (Reuters)

US professor wins

A US pioneer in genetic research has won the \$100,000 Wolf Prize for medicine, the Israeli-based Wolf Foundation announced on Monday.

Professor Maclyn McCarthy of Rockefeller University, New York, was awarded the prize for his work on the genetic material deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA). (Reuters)

Iran denies

The Iranian embassy in Paris on Monday denied reports on the sale of Iranian crude oil to Israel as a price to release six Israeli soldiers held in Lebanon by a pro-Iranian group.

The denial came in a statement that appeared in "Le Figaro" daily in response to a report on the oil sale to Israel which appeared in the paper last December 28. (Kuna)

11 dead in Turkish accident

Eleven people were killed and 50 injured on Monday when two passenger buses, three trucks and two cars piled into each other in fog south of Ankara, the Anatolian news agency said. (Reuters)

Traffic resumes

Traffic resumed along Istanbul's Bosphorus waterway early on Monday, 16 hours after thick fog forced its closure, Turkish maritime officials said.

The 19-mile strait opened to shipping traffic at 3 am (0100 GMT) when the fog lifted. (Reuters)

Three wounded by snipers

Three children were wounded on Monday when the car carrying them to school was hit by sniper fire as Christian and Muslim forces clashed across Beirut's dividing Green Line, police reported. (AP)



Zubi in Amman

Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Zu'bi (left) shakes hands with Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran after arriving at Amman's military airport.

Anti-Soviet protest

About 3,000 Turks chanting anti-Soviet slogans marched in the eastern border town of Tuzluca on Monday to protest at Soviet military intervention in Azerbaijan, the Anatolian news agency said. (Reuters)

Israel flies MiG 23

The Israeli Air Force flew for the first time on Monday a Soviet-built MiG-23 fighter in which a Syrian major defected last October, military sources said.

The MiG-23 took off from an unidentified Air Force base in central Israel and, escorted by US-built F-15 and F-16 fighters, flew over Jerusalem before returning, the sources said. (Reuters)

Afghan people dream of peace and springtime as fighting dies down in biting winter

KABUL, Jan 29, (AP): It's the 12th winter of civil war for the people of Afghanistan, but in the snow and mud of the capital there are budding hopes that springtime will bring peace.

Sounds of the bitter struggle between the communist government and Muslim rebels still boom over Kabul. But for the first winter in a decade, Soviet troops aren't pulling the triggers.

"There is less fighting now," said Ahmad Amir Shah as he jerked his yellow Moskvich taxi to avoid a shower of gray slush from an oncoming army Afghan truck.

However, the rebels' rockets still slam into the city daily, spreading panic in the mud-brick warrens that

house most of Kabul's two million people.

The US-backed mujahedeen, whose name means Islamic holy warriors, are just beyond the jagged mountains that ring the capital.

Government soldiers, some of them too young to shave, respond with artillery fire to keep their persistent enemy at bay.

Late at night, Soviet-made Scud missiles launched from secret government bases north and south of the city roar through the darkness, hurtling east towards the main battlefronts near the border with Pakistan.

But in Kabul's teeming markets a bounty of food — unlike last winter's scarce rations — hint at better

times.

Turbaned men wrapped to their noses in thick brown shawls barter with vendors in the muddy Shor Bazaar along the Kabul River.

The vendors' carts are heaped with apples, oranges, pomegranates, nuts and crispy slabs of unleavened "naan" bread. Chickens squawk in wicker baskets, and great hunks of red beef and mutton hang in the open air. There are even pastries and sugar candy.

A 7-kilogramme (15-pound) sack of flour sells for the equivalent of 2 dollars, a live chicken for about the same.

A naan the size of a dinner plate costs 8 cents, down from 10 cents a year ago when many bakeries shut

down for lack of flour.

A kilogramme (2.2 pounds) of mutton costs between 1.15 and 1.55 dollars, about one-fourth of the price a year ago.

This year's availability and prices mean that bread and meat, the staples of the Afghan diet, are within reach of more people in Afghanistan, where the average family's annual income is about 350 dollars.

In the money changers' bazaar, the local currency — the afghani — is strengthening against the dollar, going from about 525 afghanis to the dollar on Jan 1 to about 500 three weeks later.

"Business is getting slightly better, but in the future, who knows? It depends on politics and the war,"

said Raja Kumar, one of the many ethnic Indian money dealers.

Afghan government officials claim that better planning, a crackdown on hoarding and the government's success in defending major cities are the main reasons for the improved supply situation.

There were some mistakes by the government last winter of not reserving enough food," government spokesman Naquib Samer said. "Now the people are sure the government is doing the best for them."

But this success story rests largely on two external factors:

● The Soviet Union, despite ending nine years of direct combat involvement in Afghanistan last

February, conducts a massive airlift of weapons and food to the Kabul government, weather and mujahedeen rockets permitting.

● Mujahedeen leaders in neighbouring Pakistan, where the most powerful rebel groups are based, say they've instructed their fighters to concentrate on military targets and stop attacking food convoys.

The Kabul government also received help from the weather. The 1988-89 winter was the city's worst in memory, when heavy snow frequently closed the airport and the Salang highway leading north to the Soviet border. This year the first snow didn't arrive in Kabul until Jan 17.

The mujahedeen, who want to

topple Najib and install an Islamic government, continue to attack the capital and other cities with weapons supplied by the United States and by Saudi Arabia and other Muslim countries. But they admit the level of fighting has declined since last year's humiliating failure to capture Jalalabad, barely 60 kms (37 miles) from the Pakistani border.

The mujahedeen had predicted they would take Kabul within weeks or months of the Soviet withdrawal — an optimistic view also adopted by the US government.

But the rebels, instead of uniting under a joint command, fell victim to internal rivalries that periodically burst into open fighting.



International Advertising Association meeting

THE Second Regional Meeting of the International Advertising Association was held successfully in Kuwait recently, at the Kuwait International Hotel.

Tarek Al Rujailb, the council member from Kuwait, who organised this meeting here, said in a press release that first session was for the Super Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) Chapter meeting. The Super GCC Chapter was formed recently and had its first meeting in Dubai. The objective of forming the Super GCC Chapter is to bring together advertisers, advertising agencies and the media in enhancing professional practice. Here the topics were discussed including how other GCC countries, could benefit from the planned educational effort in the United Arab Emirates and participation in future events such as International Advertising Association (IAA) World Congress in Hamburg.

This meeting was attended by Tarek Al Rujailb (Kuwait), Talal Al Dhulaymi, Mohammed Amin

Al Faal (Saudi Arabia), Yousuf Darwish, Nasser Al Othman (Qatar), Mohammed Al Kamali (Oman), Hadi Al Alawi (Bahrain), and Chander Rai (UAE). The meeting was also graced by Richard Corner, Executive Director IAA and Mustafa Assad, Vice President IAA.

Al Rujailb, also organised a general reception, for the local media persons, advertising industry personnel and the advertisers. He introduced the participants to Assad and Corner, who briefed the gathering with the activities and role of IAA stressing that still we are behind in the professionalism compared to the other part of the world. The meeting was attended by a large number of local concerned persons.

Second day witnessed the regional meeting, at which several important matters were discussed in detail such as, promotion of the association in the region, upgrading the standards in this part of the world,

along with the preparation for the IAA Conference in Hamburg during June 1990. Apart from the council members the regional

meeting was also attended by Nabil Kazan, Bakhit Hamad, Fida Al Halawi, Mohammed Salman, Ahmed Sa'ati, Yunus

Farraj and Sameeh Rajab. Tarek Al Rujailb, conveyed the vote of thanks to all the participants for attending the event.



TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

MORNING PERIOD

9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher, news
9.50 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Ghoraba Fi Al Madeena: Arabic serial (part 4)
11.35 Sabah Al Kher, news
11.45 Challenges: foreign cultural programme (part 5)
12.25 News summary
12.30 Sabah Al Kher final
12.35 Holy Quran and closedown

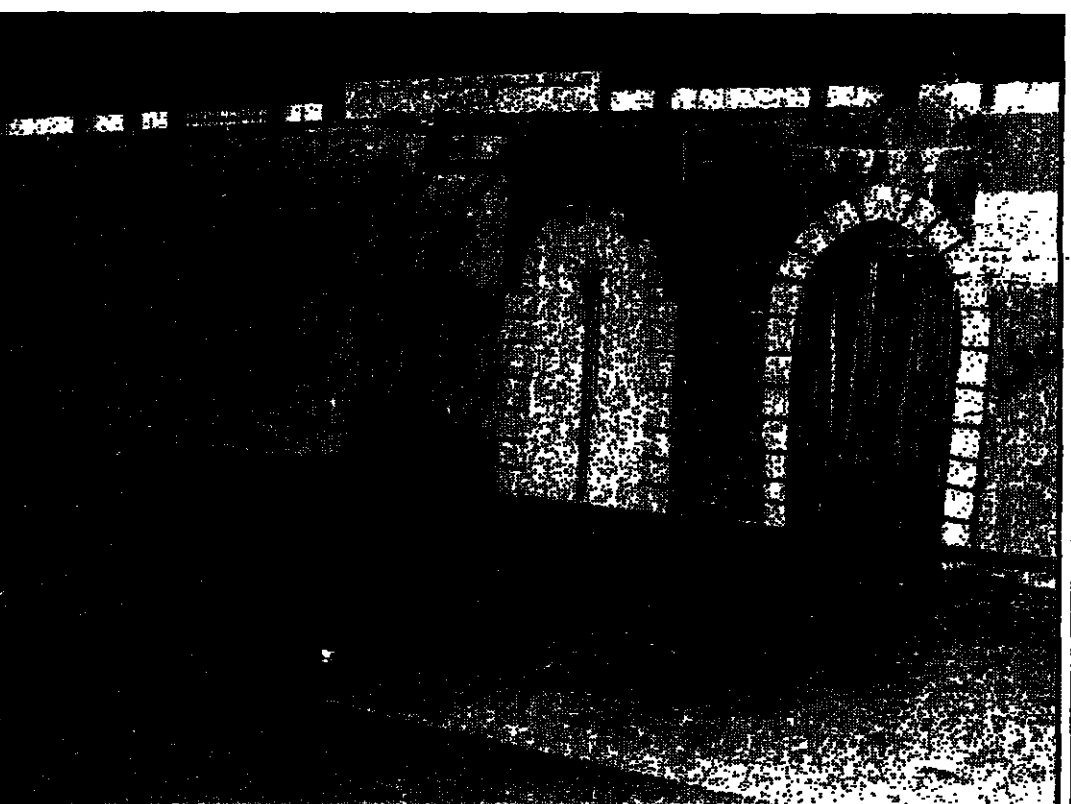
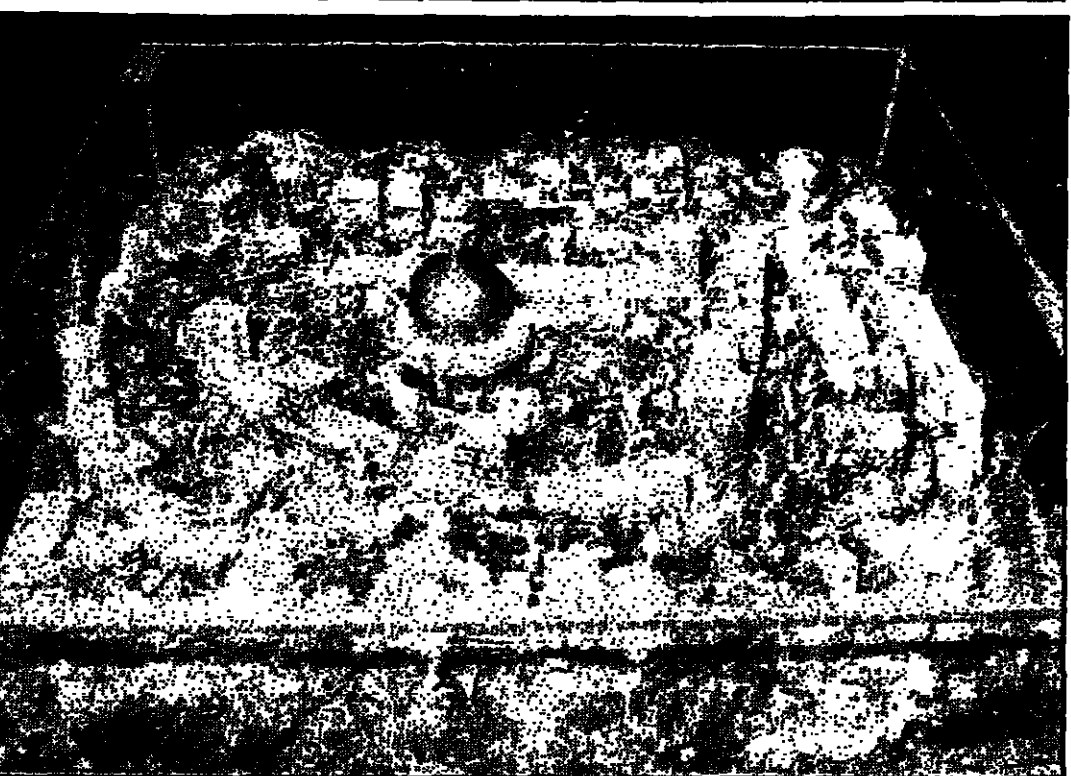
EVENING PERIOD

4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite
4.45 Sabah Al Fadhla: cartoon serial (part 1)
5.15 The World of Tomorrow: cultural serial
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Al Fareso Al Aasbeq: historical serial (part 40)
6.45 Variety
7.00 Our Children and the Future: local cultural programme (part 5) prepared and presented by Dr Mohammed Jawad Redha
8.00 Made in Kuwait: information programme, prepared and presented by Dr Ali Damkhi
8.30 Good Evening and local news
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Al Laaboon Fi Al Nar: Arabic serial (part 8)
10.45 Al Burkan: weekly Arabic serial (part 4), starring Rasheed Assaf, Fadya Khatab and Waha Al Raheb
11.45 News summary
11.50 The World Today via Satellite
12.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran

6.10 Diplodoc. A cartoon series for children
6.30 Dartmoor "Autumn". A look at cattle's pasturing effect on soil.
7.00 Peaceable Kingdom. "Elephant". While Rebecca goes to New York to sell her condo job is left to look after the kids and an elderly elephant whose body is crippled with arthritis.
8.00 News in English
8.30 You and the Law. A weekly local informative programme on laws and regulations enforced in Kuwait
8.45 Coming of Age. Dick's wife encourages him to join the retired pilots club so that she may join the women's club...
9.15 The Story of Hollywood. "The Immature Takeover". The triumph of individual talent and artistic independence. The consequence collapse of the backlot power-brokers. The package points and agents that led to a new era of wheeling and dealing...
10.00 The Twilight Zone. "The Hunters". A woman — archeologist discovers a cave where pictures of hunters chasing animals are painted on its wall... On certain occasions the paintings move as if they are real...
10.30 The Silk Route of the Sea. A look at the west Indian coastal line where different communities live... a look at their cultures, traditions and religions.
11.30 A Man Called Hawk "Passing the Bar". An innocent young man is accused of killing a man whom he tried to rescue. His sister asks Hawk to help her brother by finding the real criminal.
12.15 News in brief
12.30 Magazine D'Actualite



Palestinian exhibition closes today

The second Palestinian exhibition in support of the intifada will come to a close today, Tuesday. The exhibition was opened last Wednesday under the auspices of the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed. Many articles, appliances, Palestinian handicrafts, books, and many other items were displayed. The exhibition organisers announced a 40 per cent discount on all items during the last two days.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Seminar

THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints

THE Sultan Gallery extended their Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition until Jan 31. The gallery is open from 9.30 am to 12.30 noon and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

SOCIAL

...Like a Hurricane! SEVENTH Sky's Rock Concert at Al Andalus Cinema on 15th & 16th Feb '90. Featuring Rock, Pop/Rock and Rock 'n' Roll from the 80's. For information and reservation call 5730265/2543219.

Konkani drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to

announce Menino De Bandar's "Sonsarant Astana Diat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funnitees) on 16th February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felcy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menino de Bandar. Tickets now available at Canary Video (Sharq) and Video Clock (near G.P.O.). Rush for tickets, one show only.

NRI Forum lecture on Taxation and Investments

NRI Investors Forum is holding a lecture session at Indian Embassy on Tuesday, the 30th January at 7.30 pm. The meeting would be addressed by a visiting expert from India. All Indians are welcome.

Caledonian Society

The Annual Burns Night Supper will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel on Thursday, February 1st. For further information and ticket reservation phone: 5335082, 5332235 or 5727691 ext. 253.

Daniella Fastelabn

Daniella celebrates "Fastelabn" for Dances at Gazelle Club on Friday, Feb 16, at 1 pm. For reservations please call Marianne — Tel: 3710215 ext 29 or Wanie — Tel: 5733382 before Feb 13.

Saz Aur Aawaz

SAAZ Aur Aawaz presents hit songs of yesteryears entitled "Bhule Bistre Geet" at the Indian Arts Circle on Friday Feb 2, at 6.00 pm. Special offer for families. For details contact 3985456/3610224/5638026 after 4 pm. Win a lucky draw prize of gold or a camera.

Hobby centre

A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making — For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

Carnival Fiesta '90

YMCA/Incredible S.C. are proud to announce their Carnival Fiesta '90 at Messilah Beach Hotel (Habiba) on Feb 22, '90.

Non-stop dancing from 8.30 pm onwards to the beat of latest sensation "Hurricane Alley" and "Neighbourhood".

Highlights: Best Carnival couple (fancy) and many many surprises. For details contact the organisers on Tel. 2450279 (between 8 am to 1 pm) or Tel. 3921712.

Ladies International League

YOU are invited to attend the next general meeting on Monday, February 5, Sheraton Ballroom A. Our programme will be presented by Claude Maxime. Everyone welcome! Doors open 6 pm, programme begins at 7 pm promptly! Door charge.

II Annual one act Play Competition

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Act Play Competition to be held during the holidays in April, 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funnitees. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel. 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

Soviet Ballet

STARS of the Soviet Ballet, featuring the Russian Ballet Company of Moscow will be touring Kuwait on February 2 and 3. They will perform 130 minute shows at Al Andalus Cinema, Hawalli. On Friday, Feb 2, the show will start at 6.00 pm. On Saturday, Feb 3, it will start at 8.00 pm. Tickets will be on sale starting Thursday 10.00 am to 8.00 pm. Friday throughout the day and during the following week at the box office.

The Carnival Nite (By the Entertainers)

IN the arena of entertainment "The Entertainers" welcome all to witness their "Carnival Nite" at the Ramada Salam Hotel's (i.e. Mirage Ballroom) on the 22nd February (Thursday) 1990 commencing from 9.00 pm onwards.

Special highlights will be: Parade by King Momo. Crowning of Carnival Queen by King Momo. Samba dance competition and group prizes, and many more to be announced.

Music will be specially created for this occasion to be performed by "Top Ranks" & "Perfect Strangers" be there as its "Viva la Carnival".

Spring festival

Bengali Cultural Society is organising a "Spring Festival" at the Mousetrap Theatre, Jabriya on Thursday, 1st February 1990. Parents are requested to bring their children, who are participating in various competitions, at 7 pm sharp.

Kalpak's Drama Competition

KERALA Arts and Literature Promotion Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is conducting a Malayalam One Act Play Competition at Indian Arts Circle on 9th February 1990.

Raqs Sharqi

INTENSIVE courses (January and February) in Raqs Sharqi, the classical dance form of the Middle East. For details call 4836021.

SPORTS

Bhutto Cup

KUWAIT Cricket League is organising a cricket match between the teams of Indian and Pakistani veterans living in Kuwait, at K.C.L. ground on 2nd February 1990. The match will start at 9 am.

Kuwait Cricket takes this opportunity and announce that a lucky draw will be held with at least fifty prizes which includes colour TV, VCR, sewing machine, watches, cameras and many more household items are waiting for the winners.

All are cordially invited. For further information please call, tel. 5332052 S. Rizvi.

Ahmad kart racing

THE next race meeting will be on 22nd February but if you want to try out the rentakart, the track is open all day on Friday. If you're interested in racing or just interested enough to get involved in some other way, come down and chat to us.

From the Ahmad turn off from the motorway, turn left at the water tower lights and we are on the left, before the petrol station.

Daniella Tennis 1990

Daniella organises again this year a tennis tournament for Dances. You can participate in ladies singles, men's singles and "social doubles". All Danish tennis players are welcome. Both beginners and more experienced. For further details and registration please call Carsten — 2402698 (office) or 3710215 ext. 27 (private) before Friday, Feb 2.

Now at the MBH Sports Centre

Life saving course, with Royal Life Saving Society Coach, Grade 1 Examiner will be commencing shortly.

Ergocycle Fitness Computer tests and courses now available at Messilah.

Jazzercise/Aerobics/Staying power/Yoga and Ballet exercise classes also available.

HOTELS

Kuwait International Hotel

FIT FOR LIFE: Qualified Austrian masseur specialising in foot reflexology, acupuncture, athletic and relaxation massage available everyday. Tennis clinics on-going for all levels of play including Junior, Ladies and Adult sessions with Frank Novak — an experienced Canadian coach and tennis professional. Classes total 4 weeks in length and meet twice each week. Private coaching also

available and fun tennis sessions for the family. Ladies' Keep Fit Classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ladies' Sauna now offers a 50 per cent discount on the usual entrance fee. Ladies' Day on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm. For details please call: 2530000/8050 (Recreation).

At the Holiday Inn Health Club and Recreation Centre

SWIMMING lessons available all year round with qualified swimming instructors. Open to non-members. Mon-Tues-Wed 3.30 to 5.30. Beginners-improvers-adults mixed keep fit classes. Wed 5-6 Thurs 6-7. Fri 12-1.00 and 1-2.00. Sat 5-6.00. Ladies keep fit. Mon 5-6.00. Tues 5-6. Fri 5-6 and Sun 5.30-6.30. Martial arts w/black belt instructor Mon-Wed 6. Taekwondo Sat-Mon 7-8 Thurs 5-6. Bowling alley available for private company and community tournaments. Five squash courts. Squash handicap every Sunday start 6 pm — all standards, open to non-members. Squash coaching available from professional coach everyday, from 1 pm. Massage for men and women; gym facilities for men and women; tennis courts — coaching available. Plus lots more. Phone for further details — Recreation Manager, 4742000 ext 6788 Julie Dent or 6700 recreation.

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Experts see new period of instability

Gorbachev factor gives psychological shock to markets

LONDON, Jan 29, (Reuters): Markets thrive on rumours, and in the first turbulent days of the 1990s, no piece of wild talk seems more guaranteed to throw the financial world into turmoil than "Gorbachev has been ousted."

The words spell panic for traders and investors from New York to Tokyo as markets become transfixed by the fate of the Kremlin leader in the way Ronald Reagan's health or Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic revolution haunted the 1980s.

Just as euphoria over the collapse of the Berlin Wall drove world stock prices to record highs at the turn of the year, open discussion in the west of Gorbachev's ability to survive crises closing in on perestroika has sent jitters through the markets.

Economists say financial markets, having coped with the revolution in

East Europe, would suffer a deep psychological shock if there were an abrupt change of leadership in the Kremlin — irrespective of implications for the world economy.

"Markets are driven by perceptions," said Hugh Stokes, East European specialist at Oxford Analytica, a private research group. "But even if Gorbachev were overthrown, it need not spell the end of economic reform in the rest of Eastern Europe."

As virtual civil war gripped the republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan last week, stocks and bonds suffered heavy losses compounded by worries of higher interest rates in the West.

So just what would happen if the news that President Mikhail Gorbachev had been ousted did flash across traders' screens?

Economists prefer to leave the doomsday scenario to crystal ball gazers. But they cannot afford to ignore the implications of a change of Soviet leadership which has redrawn the political, military and economic map of Europe.

This is what some think could happen...

Rumours that Gorbachev has been ousted spread like wildfire from closing Asian markets to London and are confirmed in Moscow by international news agencies. The dollar soars against the West German mark, stock and bond markets plummet in a kneejerk reaction. Gold shoots up as investors seek a safe haven and oil prices soar on fears of interruptions to Soviet supplies to the West. Within minutes central banks are intervening on currency markets to restore order.

As Wall Street opens, panic gathers pace. "Circuit breakers" set up after the 1987 Black Monday crash cut in to limit the rush of computer-based selling. Central bank chiefs pledge to pump cash into markets if needed. Bond markets rally on the hope of lower world interest rates.

A measure of calm returns as "Sovietologists" start to analyse what has actually happened in Moscow. The political and economic fall out remains unpredictable. Still, jitters, the markets are vulnerable to after shocks but traders start wondering if they didn't overreact.

Some of that scenario is pure guess work some is based on history. When Reagan was shot in 1981, the US Federal Reserve did intervene to steady the dollar. The 1987 crash was contained by pledges to pump cash into the

markets to head off the threat of bankruptcies to banks and brokers.

The starting point is market fascination with Gorbachev, whose policies have enabled the Soviet Union's East bloc satellites to embrace free markets and open up to the West. His departure would be a serious psychological shock to markets.

Academic research has been sceptical since the October 1987 stock market crash about the traditional hypothesis under which markets react rationally and assimilate information logically.

"It is quite possible markets would overreact to news about Gorbachev," said Margaret Bray of the London School of Economics financial markets group.

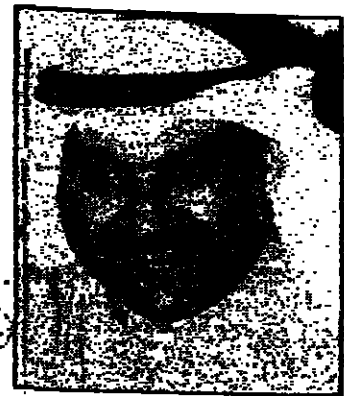
Economic analysis suggests a new period of instability and possibly

inflationary tendencies for the world economy. But it is no foregone conclusion. Open speculation that Gorbachev's reforms will fail has started to let markets down gently.

Shares have undergone a major revaluation since late 1989 in the hope that companies will scoop up business in lucrative new East European markets. But now they are sliding back again.

Japanese markets were driven higher by a rally in "red chip" stocks likely to benefit from perestroika. Economists say West German shares, boosted by the prospect of a reunited Germany, could be hard hit. But the long-term impact may be less severe.

The inflationary impact of a soaring dollar plus higher gold and oil prices could be more worrying for the global economy.



Sheikh Salem

Kuwait rates structure defended

KUWAIT, Jan 29, (AP): Kuwait will continue what it considers a flexible structure of interest rates in the decade ahead to keep pace with international rates, Central Bank Governor Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah has said.

He disclosed in a lecture yesterday to the Kuwait Economics Society that the government's public borrowing has reached 10 billion dinars (\$3.5 billion).

Oil-exporting Kuwait initiated public borrowing three years ago to cover chronic budget deficits.

Sheikh Salem said the government was predicting expansion in the private sector against a cutback in public spending.

Thus the monetary policy in the 1990s "will play a vital role in the growth of national savings, challenging them to finance the economic growth process," he stressed.

"This, he said, would give 'an outstanding role to the interest rate'."

He added: "The Central Bank will continue to apply in a complete and flexible manner all monetary policy tools with a view to dealing with any imbalances that may affect the stability of the monetary market."

That would ensure the ability to cope with fluctuations in international interest rates, encourage national savings and alleviate shrinking local liquidity resulting from the outflow of funds or a retreat in public spending, he said.

The governor pledged Kuwait will continue its policy of "securing a relative stability of the exchange rate of the Kuwaiti dinar by pegging it to a weighted basket of currencies of countries with which Kuwait has key trade links."

In 1975, Kuwait linked the dinar to the US dollar, the Japanese yen, the German Deutschmark, the pound sterling, the French franc and the Swiss franc.

Salem defended the present structure of interest rates around an average 8 per cent, and said that within a year of its application in November 1988, private sector deposits increased by 382 million dinars (\$1.3 billion), or 13 per cent, while the increase in foreign currency deposits slowed down from 37 per cent to 9 per cent.

Salem said the Central Bank will give priority in the coming decade to upgrading the performance of the banking and financial system.

Dollar ends lower as mark gains

LONDON, Jan 29, (Reuters): The dollar ended a quiet European session lower, but by renewed strength of the West German mark and fears of a possible easing of US interest rates.

Dealers said the mark was boosted by news at the weekend that East Germany would hold its first free elections in March, two months earlier than planned.

"It will be terrific when this uncertainty about East Germany is out of the market," said one trader in Frankfurt.

"When the election is over, people can get down to business in East Germany. Then you will see a flood of joint ventures," the trader added.

Dealers said the easing of tension in the Soviet Union, where Azeri leaders on Saturday offered to hold peace talks with the Kremlin, also helped bolster the mark against the dollar.

Earlier this month the dollar, traditionally seen as a safe haven investment in times of trouble, rose at the expense of the mark after violent clashes in the Soviet republic of Azerbaijan.

The dollar closed in London at 1.6792 marks, above a day low of 1.6695 and below its 1.6925 close on Friday.

At midday in Frankfurt the dollar was fixed at 1.6717 marks, compared to 1.6890 on Friday and its lowest since April 29 last year, when it was set at 1.6683.

In London the Financial Times Stock Exchange index of 100 blue chip shares closed 14.3 points up at 2,326.8.

Gold closed barely changed in London at \$418.50 an ounce, after ending at \$418.75 on Friday.

Bid to boost Opec output capacity

Subroto seeks Japanese help

TOKYO, Jan 29, (Reuters): Opec secretary-general Subroto said today he hoped Japan would help Opec nations finance increased production to meet growing world oil demand.

"I don't appeal to one particular nation, but Japan, of course, is in the position together with other industrial countries," he said in an interview.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries will need to increase its production capacity by up to six million barrels per day by the year 2000 to meet growing world oil demand, he said earlier.

That increase will entail huge capital investments by Opec of about \$60 billion, or 10 per cent of its annual revenues, between now and 1995, he said.

Without such investment, prices will be driven upward and run out of control, he said in an interview.

"Opec is interested in stability. There needs to be co-operation between producers and consumers if you like the stability."

Subroto said he told Japan's International Trade and Industry Minister Hikaru Matsunaga that Opec must increase production capacity, but that doing so should not be Opec's responsibility alone.

The move should involve efforts by major players in the oil industry, governments, oil com-

Japan sets terms

ABU DHABI, Jan 29, (Reuters): Japan has set conditions for Gulf countries wishing to invest in its oil refining and retail market, a senior Abu Dhabi official was quoted today as saying.

"According to information we received from Japanese officials, Japan will allow foreign investors to buy shares in its downstream industry on three conditions," Jouan Salim Al Dahiri, chairman of Abu Dhabi's International Petroleum Investment Co. (IPIC), told Al Bayan newspaper.

He said Japan demanded that the investor should have long-term crude supplies, an agreement between the investor and the Japanese firms, and reciprocal treatment.

The reciprocal treatment means that we should allow the Japanese to enter joint ventures in the petrochemical sector and other industries associated with oil," Dahiri told Al Bayan.

Two top Japanese oil officials toured the Gulf earlier this month to discuss long-term crude supplies. They said Gulf states were welcome to invest in Japan's retail market.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer, currently visiting Japan, told Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Foreign Minister Taro Nakasone on Friday the kingdom hoped to enter Japan's downstream markets.

A senior Foreign Ministry official in Tokyo quoted Nazer as saying such a move could ensure stable oil supplies for Japan.

The Abu Dhabi government set up IPIC in 1984 to enter the downstream business in consumer countries. Abu Dhabi is the biggest oil producer in the United Arab Emirates.

So far IPIC has acquired a 12 per cent share in Spain's Cepes-

panies and financial institutions.

"I mentioned to Mr Matsunaga, Japan can bring about discussions. Japan, as one of the oil consumers can feel the need that this oil crisis should be avoided," he said.

Oil experts said there was concern that oil supplies would be squeezed in the mid-1990s.

Asked if Opec nations were willing to let Japan take part in oil production, he said: "Of

course, there are some differences. In certain countries of Opec, foreign companies can participate also in upstream operations... but in some other countries of Opec they want to be their only operators."

The term upstream refers to crude oil production, while the manufacture of petroleum products is known as a downstream operation.

Subroto also welcomed the

opening of new markets in Eastern Europe following political changes in the region.

If Eastern Europe's liberalisation was successful and industry there moved ahead, those countries would need more energy, he said.

Subroto said Soviet production was declining, by four per cent in 1990 compared to 1988. The slight fall was likely to continue, reducing Soviet exports to Eastern Europe, he said.

At the next meeting of the eight-member Opec monitoring committee in March, the organisation would look at supply and demand for the first quarter and whether the current production ceiling of 22 million barrels per day was relevant, Subroto said.

He said he was optimistic the United Arab Emirates (UAE) would follow the organisation's agreement reached at the general meeting last May. The UAE did not agree to the last set of Opec quotas.

Commenting on quotas, Subroto said: "The demand for Opec oil will increase, I think the problem of quota (busting) will be solving itself. Some of the member countries have reached capacity already and others still have excess production capacity."

He said it would be good both for producers and consumers if some Opec nations entered the downstream oil market in Japan.

'First dove of perestroika' Golden arches grace McDonald's

MOSCOW, Jan 29, (UPI): Fifty-one countries feasted on big macs before the Soviet Union got its fast-food franchise, but the world's largest country is getting the world's biggest McDonald's in what a Russian called "the first dove of perestroika."

After 14 years of planning and bargaining, Wednesday's opening day of McDonald's in Moscow in less than 48 hours off, the golden arches threatening to become as familiar landmark as the wildly colored cupolas of St Basil's in Red Square.

"It will be like a pilgrimage here," said Tolya Nikitin. "There will be a line from the opening hour (at 10 am) until the closing (at 10 pm). People will hear what a clean restaurant it is. It will never be empty."

But another more cynical Russian, Sonya, said, "I hope we will not be getting just another fine in Moscow."

George Kohon, who has nurtured the project through 14 years of trips and work in the Soviet Union, said he and his staff of Russians, trained abroad at McDonald's "schools," will make sure they are not adding just another queue in the Soviet capital.

"When the Russians get to the front of the line, they will find food, piping hot, smiling faces to wait on them, to thank them and tell them to come back," he said.

Welcoming the expected lines that might well snake down Gorky Street right to the Kremlin, he said McDonald's Moscow hopes to break the McDonald's opening day record of 9,100 transactions, in Budapest, and possibly the all time record of any day, 14,000 in Hong Kong.

Unlike almost all joint food ventures in the Soviet Union, McDonald's will be selling its big macs with fries and milkshakes for roubles not dollars, breaking what Russians cynically call perestroika's "rouble apartheid."



George A. Kohon, chairman of Moscow McDonald's and president of McDonald's Restaurants of Canada Limited answers journalists' questions during interview two days before the opening of the first McDonald's restaurant in Soviet Union. (Reuters wirephoto)

Those dollars-only-count-here establishments keep Russians out or their mouths watering while foreigners or privileged Soviets with dollars eat up or load their cars with groceries at foreign currency supermarkets.

Iraq, Paris to strengthen trade ties

Iranian policy makers warned

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Jan 29, (AP): A Tehran newspaper warned Iranian policy makers today that France will never dedicate itself to economic development in the Islamic republic because of the strong ties between Paris and Baghdad.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency, which carried the report, referred to the strategic co-operation between the two that goes back to the early days of the Gulf war, when Iraq bought many of its weapons from France.

"Some foreign policy officials in Iran have a tendency to think that as an industrial country France can become a strong economic partner for Iran... but such a view will hold water only if taken out of the context of the regional developments," the editorial in the English-language Tehran Times said.

"It has to be admitted that France will never seriously try to help the Iranian economy develop," said the daily, which also referred to the current visit to Iraq by France's Defence Minister, Jean Pierre Chevenement.

Chevenement, the first French defence minister to visit Iraq since its war with Iran was halted by a United Nations-mediated ceasefire in 1988, was to discuss military deals with Iraqi officials, according to diplomats in Baghdad.

A delegation from the French defence firm Matra also visited Baghdad earlier this month to discuss co-operation with the Iraqi company which manufactures missiles, satellites and electronic warfare systems.

The Iraqi Air Force uses Matra missiles on its French-designed, Egyptian-manufactured Gazelle helicopters.

But the Iranian daily said in its editorial that Chevenement was in Baghdad for talks on Iraq's failure to pay its debts to France. Iraq owes an estimated \$30 billion to the West.

Iraq, which is seeking to purchase 50 Mirage-2000 fighters from the French Dassault company, owes France a total debt of around 25 billion francs (\$3.75 billion), most of which was for weapons.



New GM

Air France has a new General Manager for the region: Yves Bouillet (above) whose responsibilities cover the markets of the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain. Bouillet is based in the Air France Regional Office in Abu Dhabi. He started his managerial career with Air France during a 6-year period in the USA. After the USA, he was posted to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (covering North and South Yemen) for a period of 5 years.

Bouillet became Air France's General Manager in Canada. He then moved on to Paris to take up his assignment as the Deputy Vice President of the North and West African Network.

Legacy of mistrust remains

Alaska oil spill

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Jan 29, (Reuters): Ten months after the United States' worst oil spill, officials from Alaska and Exxon Corp still are bickering over whether the cleanup is complete from the super-tanker disaster.

Exxon said it spent \$1.75 billion cleaning up the 11-million-gallon (41.8-million-litre) Exxon Valdez spill. But it still has not committed itself to returning in the spring to finish a job the state says is only half-done.

Exxon manager Otto Harrison insists that, in the spring, nobody will be able to tell there ever was an oil spill. State experts reply that the tarry crude oil is embedded so deeply in the beaches it will harm wildlife for years to come.

Alaskan authorities finally have brought to trial Joseph Hazelwood, the fired Exxon Valdez skipper they hold criminally responsible for fouling 1,000 miles (1,600 km) of shoreline and killing thousands of birds and other animals.

Hazelwood, 43, will appear in Anchorage's Alaska Superior court today under a barrage of publicity to face four charges of recklessness.

The US oil industry, which uses Alaska to produce a quarter of its domestic crude, also taken big steps towards preventing a repeat of the disaster which polluted pristine Prince William Sound waters on March 24.

Tankers in the Sound now travel with escort vessels and do not stray outside traffic lanes. Pilots stay longer aboard the mammoth vessels and spill emergency drills have been increased.

But Alaska officials say industry could do far more to help preserve the frontier state's spectacular scenery and wildlife.

"More needs to be done, it's an uphill battle," said Dan Lawa, a state environment protection officer who claimed he issued repeated unheeded warnings before the tragedy. Tankers at oil terminals in Scotland and in Norway are barred from operating in winds above 34 mph (54 kph), he said.

But he adds tankers still are loaded in winds greater than 50 mph (80 kph) at the terminal in Valdez, from which the Exxon Valdez sailed the night it ran aground.

"I'd like to see tankers not work in weather that's beyond their ability to clean up the oil," he told Reuters on Saturday.

Last week, the American Petroleum Institute announced a \$400-million oil spill response plan — a national plan that excludes Alaska, even though prompted by the Alaska spill.

The oil industry association said it would not wait until after settlement of some 200 suits against Exxon and the Alyeska Pipeline Service Co, operator of the Valdez terminal, before deciding what special measures to take here.

Petroleum-carrying vessels, meanwhile, continue to run into trouble in turbulent Alaska waters.

In November, a barge with 11 million gallons (19 million litres) of aviation fuel was left to drift helplessly near Prince William Sound.

Later that month, Alaska Attorney-General Doug Bailey spoke out about rust in the 800-mile (1,280-km) pipeline carrying crude to Valdez from Arctic Ocean shores. "I've always had an unwillingness to accept information from Alyeska at face value," he said.

More foreign aid sought for East Europe and international drug war

WASHINGTON, Jan 29, (AP): President George Bush asked Congress today to establish a new \$300-million programme to reward Eastern European countries moving toward greater democracy, and proposed major aid increases to drug-producing Andean countries.

He also wants to pay past-due bills from the United Nations.

In his 1991 foreign aid budget proposal, Bush promised to send proposed new legislation to Capitol Hill to offer details of the Eastern Europe initiative, and the subject is likely to be high on the agenda when Secretary of State James Baker testifies before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Thursday.

"The United States must make every effort to support the transition of Eastern

European countries to democracy and free-market economies," the budget states in outlining an overall increase in outlays for fiscal year 1991 that amounts to nearly 12 per cent over the current year.

The estimated outlays for all international affairs categories — foreign aid, maintaining embassies and running the State Department — would be \$18.2 billion in 1991. The 1990 figure is estimated at \$14.6 billion, but that figure has been artificially reduced by one-time income of \$1.7 billion from early repayment of past military aid loans.

A nearly 80 per cent boost is proposed in aid for the war on drugs, including \$175 million in what the budget terms new aid "for the economies of those countries that evidence a determination to attack

seriously the narcotics problem." Under pressure from Capitol Hill, the administration is seeking this aid to help coca farmers switch to other crops.

In addition, law enforcement aid is sought at \$20 million for Colombia, where a crackdown on cocaine cartels has brought violent retaliation; \$19 million for Peru, the world's largest coca leaf producer; and 15.7 million for Bolivia.

The budget acknowledges an end to "the bipolar superpower era," and notes that US participation in international organisations like the United Nations and the World Bank will take on increasing importance.

It proposes beginning the repayment, over a five-year period, of \$620 million in back dues owed to the UN, on top of \$794 million in regularly scheduled payments.

And it asks for \$279 million to pay overdue bills from multilateral development banks.

The budget proposal would continue the two largest recipients of US military and economic aid at their current levels: \$3.3 billion for Israel and \$2.1 billion for Egypt.

It asks, as well, for \$200 million to pay the second installment of a five-year, \$1-billion pledge to an international aid effort for the Philippines.

And \$2.1 billion is requested to make payments to Nato countries and the Philippines in return for rights to maintain US military bases on their soil.

Missing from the budget are specific aid requests for most individual countries. State Department officials said those numbers were still being worked out and should be ready for Baker's.

Riyal rates ease KD deposits steady

KUWAIT, Jan 29, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposits remained steady in this trade today, with few factors to give the market direction.

Overnight was offered at 8-1/4 per cent, up from levels of eight on Sunday. Rates for tomorrow next and spot next were little changed at 8-7/16, 5/16 with business reported at 8-3/8.

One and three-month maturities were quoted steady at 8-1/2, 3/8 per cent and the six-month and one-year at 8-3/8, 1/2.

The Central Bank left its dinar exchange rate unchanged for the third consecutive day at 0.2928/38 to the dollar.

Meanwhile, Saudi riyal interbank deposit rates eased today after a \$1.5 billion bond government bond settlement left the market liquid.

Dealers said there were still plenty of funds available after the fortnightly settlement because most operators had prepared by placing riyals in the short dates last week.

"The market is still comfortably liquid and rates have eased because of that," one dealer said.

Spot next and one-week declined to 7-7/8, 7-3/8 per cent from eight, 7-1/2 on Sunday.

جديد

California considering regulations

Environmental issues will affect 'the size and shape of cars'

LONDON, Jan 29. (Reuters): A recent British study found nine out of 10 drivers favoured legislation making pollution-reducing catalytic converters compulsory on cars.

But only half said they would be willing to pay £100 (\$160) extra for the device which converts toxic exhaust emissions into less harmful substances. And just a quarter of those canvassed would pay if the cost was double that amount.

Unfortunately, catalytic converters in Britain cost between £250 (just over \$400) for the smallest cars to much as £2,200 (\$3,650) for a Rolls-Royce.

Therein lies the dilemma facing environmentalists and automobile manufacturers world-wide.

Environmental concerns may top opinion polls, but evidence is scarce

that consumers would pay more for cleaner cars.

A recent report on the car of the future by the independent London-based Economist Intelligence Unit forecast that bigger engines would not fall into disfavour until the year 2000.

Even then, "a residual demand is bound to exist unless it is positively legislated against," it added.

Industry experts say it is laws, rather than consumers, that will provide the impetus for any shift towards cleaner cars.

"We are moving towards stricter regulations and I suspect that this will become more widespread," said Colin Whitbread, an automobile analyst with Prudential Bache Securities in London.

"But for the next five years I don't see any substantial downsizing in cars," he said. In fact, in the United States and Japan there is a pronounced trend toward larger, luxury cars, the fastest-growing segment of the car market.

Motor vehicles that burn petrol or diesel account for more than 20 per cent of the carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere, the principal cause of global warming. They are also the main cause of smog in most large cities.

Consequently, Ford Motor Co said in a forward-looking report that environmental concern is the most serious issue the car industry must face in the next 15 years.

The report, not officially released

but detailed in the Financial Times newspaper, said environmental issues will affect "the size and shape of cars, what is in them, how they are made, where they are allowed to go and even who can own them."

It adds: "We will see tighter fuel mileage requirements, alternative fuel incentives, fuel conservation taxes and other restrictions."

Such regulations are already appearing.

Several European Economic Community countries require all cars to be equipped by 1992 with catalytic converters which, set between the manifold and silencer, convert 90 per cent of toxic engine gases into less harmful carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons. Such devices have been mandatory in the United States for

years.

California, where 10 per cent of all cars in the United States are sold, is considering regulations that would cut allowable car emissions to half the present limit, already the most stringent in the world.

This after US state legislators in 1988 cut allowable emissions 30 to 50 per cent for 1993 and 1997 model cars.

British Environment Secretary Christopher Patten has recommended a pollution tax on engine size and an increase in petrol tax to curb usage. Britain is also pressing the EEC to set Europe-wide emission standards.

But car makers complain that such regulations place them in a difficult position — governments demand that they cut the fuel consumption of their cars while consumers only want bigger

and faster, or at least cheaper models.

One way around the conflict is by following the example of the Netherlands and West Germany, where the governments cut motoring taxes for drivers who switched to catalytic converters.

As a result of the higher demand in its home market, West German car maker Audi is the first European manufacturer to make converters standard equipment on its entire fleet of cars.

But converters have limited capabilities. Environmentalists argue that the ideal solution is a car that runs on a non-polluting fuel such as electricity, methanol or alcohol.

General Motors Co created a stir in early January when it demonstrated an electric-powered car that, unlike previous models, had the acceleration

and power of a sports car.

However, only one prototype of the car exists and GM chairman Roger Smith said extensive marketing tests must be done to determine whether it can be produced profitably.

Earlier studies in France and Italy concluded electric cars could be 20 to 30 per cent dearer than conventional models.

Audi launched a semi-electric system in January that can be put on any of its four-wheel-drive cars. It uses a petrol engine to power that front wheels and electric propulsion for the rear, but adds more than £9,000 (\$15,000) to the price.

Peugeot of France is going further, producing an electric powered version of its popular 205 minicar starting in April.

Kuwait seeks four new super tankers

NICOSIA, Jan 29. (Reuters): The Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) is in the market for four new supertankers and seven smaller ships, the Middle East Economic Survey reported.

"Definitely tanker freight rates are going to go up and people are going to require tonnage," KOTC chairman Abd Al Fattah Al Badr told the Nicosia-based newsletter in an interview.

He said there would be a shortage of very large crude carriers (Vics) and the shippers would not be able to meet demand in time. "All the yards are heavily booked for the next two to three years," Al Badr said.

The newsletter said Kuwait was looking for four Vics tankers of around 280,000 deadweight tonnes (DWT), two refined products carriers of 35,000 DWT, two liquefied petroleum gas carriers of 78,000 cubic metre capacity (around 40,000 cargo tonnes) and three ethylene/LPG tankers of 10,000 DWT.

The latter would carry exports from Kuwait's planned new petrochemical complex.

The newsletter said KOTC currently has 30 tankers with a total capacity of some 2.56 million tonnes.

Economic recovery hopes soar

MEXICO CITY, Jan 29. (AP): World Bank president Barber Conable, in a televised interview, has expressed confidence in the Mexican economy and its continued recovery from seven years of stagnation.

Mexico "has its problems, but obviously the leadership of this country is getting a handle on those problems and has a vision of the future," Conable told the private television network in an interview broadcast yesterday.

The network did not say when the interview took place. But Conable arrived last Monday and met with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and Treasury Secretary Pedro Aspe before departing Friday.

The World Bank leader lauded the Mexican people for placing "new confidence" in their future and for making "very courageous change in a very short period of time."

He said Mexico has achieved initial economic goals faster than World Bank programmes had stipulated.

"Mexico has truly made its own programme rather than waiting for necessity to force it into change or for some outside force like the World Bank," said Conable.

Mexico is the first nation to renegotiate its debt since US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady drafted a new American policy of debt forgiveness to countries that undertake serious economic reforms.

"We hope that Mexico's experience here will encourage other countries to make the deep and broad reform efforts that Mexico has made to qualify for Brady plan debt reduction," Conable said.

EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	0.017300
Sri Lankan rupee	0.013500
Pakistani rupee	0.013690
Bangladesh taka	0.009400
US dollar	29.1100
Pound sterling	489.5000
UAE dirham	0.792200
Deutsche mark	1.746500
Japanese yen	0.020460

Blue Arrow to seek reincorporation in America

LONDON, Jan 29. (Reuters): The world's biggest employment agency, London-based Blue Arrow, said today it planned to seek shareholder approval for reincorporation in the United States to reflect the group's increased US shareholdings.

Blue Arrow PLC announced in November that it planned to change the company name to Manpower PLC in recognition of the world-wide visibility and prominence of the brand name of the US-based manpower group which Blue Arrow acquired in 1987 to take it into top spot globally.

The proposal will be put to shareholders at the company's next annual general meeting.

Blue Arrow said that over the past 12 months a majority of outstanding shares in

the company had been acquired by US institutions and individuals. It estimated that 65 per cent of the company was now US-owned.

This change in shareholding made the company liable to comply with US regulations governing reporting and financial procedures, the company added.

Blue Arrow said a reincorporation in the United States would eliminate duplication of corporate costs, streamline the flow of intra-group funds on a tax-efficient basis and cancel the need for dual reporting requirements.

It said its major institutional shareholders in Britain and the United States backed the proposal.

Blue Arrow's takeover of Manpower

Inc for \$1.3 billion was fraught with controversy over a failed rights issue by Blue Arrow to fund the deal just before the stock market crash of 1987. Eleven people have since been charged with conspiracy to defraud in the deal.

Three institutions involved in the deal — County NatWest and NatWest Investment Bank, subsidiaries of Britain's National Westminster Bank, and Swiss-owned London stockbroker UBS Phillips and Drew — faced the same charge.

County NatWest's former chairman Charles Villiers, ex-chief executive Jonathan Cohen and its current finance director, Stephen Clark, were among those arrested and charged.

The others were former County Nat-

West directors David Reed, Nicholas Wells and Elizabeth Brimelow, former Phillips and Drew directors Philip Gibbs, Timothy Brown, Christopher Stainforth and Paul Smallwood, and Alan Keat, a partner in a London law firm.

A series of much-publicised boardroom rows also led to dramatic changes at the top at Blue Arrow, with former manpower head Mitchell Fromstein taking over as chairman from Tony Berry, the man who had ousted him following the takeover.

Berry was removed as chairman last May after news of a £25 million (\$42 million) loan by Blue Arrow to Chainlock Corp, a company associated with businessman Peter de Savary. The loan had not been approved by the board.

Bush proposes \$1.2trn budget

Call to lower deficit to \$63.1b without raising taxes

WASHINGTON, Jan 29. (Reuters): President George Bush sent to Congress today a proposed \$1.2 trillion blueprint for spending in fiscal year 1991 that calls for lowering the US deficit to \$63.1 billion without raising taxes.

The budget plan includes a \$306.9 billion authorisation for defence, slightly higher than the \$301.6 billion authorised for fiscal year 1990, but about two per cent less than the rate of inflation.

The proposed spending represents a three per cent increase over 1990 spending. But the 1991 spending rise would be offset by a nine per cent increase in revenues.

Bush's budget shows revenues rising from \$1.07 trillion in the current fiscal year to \$1.17 trillion in 1991, mostly due to a projected improvement in the economy.

Bush's budget plan assumes that the current economic expansion, now in its eighth year, will continue through 1995.

The administration sees gross national product, the total amount of goods and services produced, expanding by 2.6 per cent after inflation from the fourth quarter of 1989 to the fourth quarter of 1990. That compares with 2.4 per cent last year, according to the latest government data.

It assumes GNP will grow by

3.3 per cent in 1991, a forecast many economists say may be too optimistic.

But the rosy economic forecast allows the administration to assume higher revenues that can be used to offset the deficit — at least on paper.

The administration is required to reduce the federal red ink to \$64 billion in fiscal 1991, from \$152 billion in fiscal 1989, which ended September 31.

Meeting that goal will require substantial spending cuts and revenue increases. The administration projects the deficit for the current fiscal year will be \$123.8 billion.

The administration rejected government debt held by the public, which does not include the federal debt held by social security and other government trust funds, at \$2.36 trillion in fiscal 1991, compared with \$2.3 trillion in fiscal 1990.

The administration also assumes the inflation rate will remain relatively stable over the next few years and decline to 2.9 per cent in 1995.

Consumer prices are forecast to rise by 4.2 per cent from the fourth quarter of 1989 to the fourth quarter of 1990 and 4.1 per cent in 1991, after an estimated 4.0 per cent in 1989.

Bush renewed his call to cut the capital gains tax. The controversial proposal would reduce the rate for long term investments to

a maximum of 19.6 per cent, compared with the current top rate of 33 per cent.

Bush also proposed a plan aimed at improving the nation's poor savings rate, which financial analysts say forces the United States to rely heavily on foreign money to finance the federal deficit and business investments.

In a message to Congress that accompanied the 1,269-page budget document, Bush said his spending blueprint was designed "with an eye toward future growth and expansion of the human frontier."

He said it provides for record amounts for research and development, space, education and the head start pre-school programme for disadvantaged children. He said it also included a major investment in civil aviation and "a large increase in spending to attack the scourge of drugs."

At the same time, Bush said the plan "maintains a strong national defence while reflecting the dramatic changes in the world political situation."

While the plan serves as a blueprint for federal spending next year, Congress is likely to make significant changes in the levels of defence and domestic spending.

Changes in Eastern Europe and reduced tensions between the United States and the Soviet

Union will translate into deep cuts for defence spending, and lawmakers are lining up with suggestions on how to spend the so-called "peace dividend."

The defence budget is likely to be a target for cost-minded lawmakers, particularly liberal Democrats who would like to use the money to beef up domestic social programmes during the Reagan administration. But at the same time individual lawmakers will be looking to save weapons programmes that provide jobs in their districts.

The 1991 defence budget proposes cancellation to lower a dozen conventional weapons programmes from missiles to aircraft, but calls for building five B-2 controversial radar-avoiding "Stealth" bombers at \$530 million each and developing two types of mobile land-based nuclear missiles.

It also calls for spending \$4.5 billion on the controversial strategic defence initiative, commonly called "Star Wars", an increase of nearly \$1 billion over current spending. That is certain to be a major target of congressional budget cutters.

The Pentagon plan would reduce US military personnel by 38,000 to a total of just under 2,039,000 by the end of 1991, not including any withdrawals from Western Europe under the East-West conventional force talks.

Plan fails to curb inflation Iraqi budget played

BAGHDAD, Jan 29. (AP): A top Iraqi economist yesterday criticised the state budget for 1990 as being incapable of boosting growth or curbing inflation — the two main targets set by the government.

Professor Humam Al Shamma wrote in the daily Al Qadisiya that heavy reliance of deficit financing and an insistence on boosting profits of state-run industries were bound to push inflation higher.

"From details of the budget released so far, it is obvious that no reconciliation can be achieved between the targets of combating inflation, and economic growth," Al Shamma wrote.

The article in Al Qadisiya, which is the newspaper of the

Iraqi armed forces, was an unusual case of an officially tolerated criticism of basic government policy.

In other recent signs of a measured opening of public life in tightly controlled Iraq, the government recently lifted a ban on foreign travel by Iraqis.

Al Shamma also criticised the government's economic plan for setting the curbing of inflation as its top priority. "I would rather put paying foreign debts as the first priority, accelerating economic growth as second, and then other objectives," he wrote.

The government has not provided full budget figures, but it has released — for the first time in years — some of the allocation totals for particular sectors.

Aluminium smelter planned

BAGHDAD, Jan 29. (Reuters): Iraq is planning to build an aluminium smelter with an annual capacity of 215,000 tonnes, the English daily Baghdad Observer said today.

The newspaper quoted an Industry Ministry source as saying the French firm Aluminium Pechiney had won the contract to design the project, which would be completed in three years.

There were no details on the cost of the plant and Gulf-based bankers and industry sources had no confirmation.

Planned expansions of plants in Bahrain and Dubai and completion of two new smelters in Qatar and Saudi Arabia are expected to double Gulf aluminium capacity to over one million tonnes by 1994, making the area a major world producer.

The Iraqi smelter would supply domestic industries such as car manufacturers, construction, packaging and electric power transmission, the Baghdad Observer said.



GM chief signs accord

Acting general manager of Hungarian Raba works, Ferenc Romvari (left) and president of General Motors Europe company, Robert Eaton sign an agreement allowing Hungary to produce Opel engines and cars in Budapest. (Reuters wirephoto)

CSI and IEEECS sign deal

BOMBAY, January 29: Computer Society of India (CSI) has taken a major step in formally signing an affiliate membership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEECS) of USA. The MOU was signed in Bombay by president of CSI, Hemant Sonawala and IEEECS president Dr Kenneth Anderson. Also present on the occasion were Dr Emerson Pugh, president, IEEE, USA, Prof. V.S. Rao, Dr O.P. Mehra, F.C. Kohli, Dr Nirmal Jain, S. Ramadurai, M.V. Channan, K.R.S. Moorthy, Shashi Ullal, Kalyana Sundaram, C.G. Ravi, Mr. L. Saldana, Lt Col M.M. Wadia and Vijay Vaidya.

The historic event has come about as a result of two years of continuous efforts of Hemant Sonawala and Prof. V.S. Rao, past president of CSI and chairman of IEEE Indian Council.

IEEE has stringent qualitative requirements and CSI can be justifiably proud that the publications, conferences and other activities of CSI were seen and formed to measure up to the standards of IEEECS.

Members of affiliate societies can obtain several benefits. They are eligible for special "sister society" subscription rates for all Computer Society magazines and transactions except Computer. They also enjoy preferred treatment when they apply for affiliate membership in the society.

Singapore world meet

Students win software contest

BOMBAY, Jan 29: Master Manu Jyenger, Master Ajay Jain and Master Kiran Singh of Modern School, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi have won the first prize in the international software contest held at Singapore during the South East Asia Regional Computer Confederation 89 (SEARCC 89) world meet. Singapore and Thailand won the second and the third prizes respectively. The first prize comprises \$22,000 and an IBM PC compatible. The winning team scored 440 points.

Computer Society of India (CSI) had sponsored trip to Singapore of the winning team and another team from Padma Seshadri School, K.K. Nagar, Madras. Prof. H.N. Mahabala of IIT, Madras and Past President, CSI, and H.R. Mohan, secretary CSI, Madras chapter, accompanied them to Singapore.

Regional contests were held earlier at Bombay, Madras, Delhi and Calcutta to select teams to be sent to Singapore. Prof. Mahabala and Mohan were assisted in organising the regional contests by IITs at Bombay, Madras, Delhi and Jadavpur University.

The international contest will be an annual event to be held prior to the SEARCC annual convention to be held in different countries by rotation. CSI has decided to make the national contest also an annual event. The feedback from contestants of national contest held this year shows that students became highly motivated by the contest and as such learnt a lot by taking the Computer Studies seriously.

Grindlays goes to sea

IN 1854 Grindlays in India did a lot of business with the merchant marine. Today 136 years later the NRI services Group of ANZ Grindlays unveils for the first time in India a unique package for NRI marine officers. Beginning with a seminar on investment opportunities at the Walchand Hirachand Hall, Indian Merchants Chamber Building, Churchgate, Bombay.

R. Krishna Moorthy, retired assistant commissioner, Income Tax, and other ANZ Grindlays personnel addressed a seminar on Jan 6, which was organised by Grindlays.

Now merchant marines can avail of tax advice, portfolio management, day to day banking support and special services keeping their specific needs in mind — only from ANZ Grindlays.

Marine officers and seamen paid in foreign currency, can keep abreast of tax and investment legislation specific to them by contacting the ANZ Grindlays NRI Centre 90, M.G. Road, Bombay.

"Mariners advantage" among other things allows NRI seamen to transfer funds to their families anywhere in India while retaining part of their income in high yield foreign exchange accounts with ANZ Grindlays. Now, these brave souls can concentrate on the vagaries of the weather and the seas by banking on ANZ Grindlays, who salute some of their oldest customers once again with "mariners advantage."

Nikkei stock average: 37173.70 (-299.63) Volume: 400 mil shs Yen exchange rate: 143.03					
Name of stock	CI	Cs			
Advantest Corp	3830	0			
Ajinomoto	2800	0			
Alps Electric	2070	+40			
Amada	1950	+20			
Asahi Chem Ind	1190	+20			
Asahi Glass	2200	+10			
C. Itoh Co.	1100	+30			
Canon Inc.	1850	+10			
Casio Corp	1580	-20			
Dai Nippon Printing	2350	+10			
Daicel Seiyaku	2870	+10			
Daikin Corp	2830	+40			
Daishinku Corp	2140	-50			
Eisai	2240	+40			
Fanuc Ltd.	8240	+20			
Fuji Photo	4450	+40			
Fujitsu Ltd.	1610	0			
Hitachi Credit	1830	-60			
Hitachi Koki	2110	+20			
Hitachi Ltd.	1590	-10			
Hitachi Metal	1680	+30			
Honda Motor	1820	+10			
Ito Yokado Co	4130	-40			
Kajima Corp	2100	+20			
Kawasaki H I	1010	+34			
Kobe Steel	1380	+10			
Kokusai Elec	2400	+110			
Komatsu Ltd.	1248	-20			
Kyocera Corp	6420	+220			
Matsui	3400	+110			
Matsushita Ind	2470	+30			
Mats Electric	2310	-10			
Mitsubishi Corp	967	+18			
Mitsubishi Corp			1760	+40	
Mitsubishi Estate			2220	+30	
Mitsubishi H I			1110	+30	
Mitsui Bussan			2680	+30	
Mitsui R E			1950	+60	
Mitsui Corp			4400	+170	
Mechatronics			2940	+0	
Mori Seiki Co.			2830	+0	
NEC Corp			1670	+40	
Nikon Corp			1590	+10	
Nippon Shm Co			2450	+30	
Nippon Steel Corp			709	+3	
Nippondensetsu			1610	-10	
Nitabaru Corp			3140	+40	
Onuma Sec			1760	+30	
Osaka Mach			2290	+90	
Onward K Co.			6110	+90	
Orix Corp			6050	-0	
Fluor Corp			2430	-0	
Renovest Steel Ind			999	+24	
Sanyo Elec Co.			6210	-50	
Secom Co. Ltd.			1770	-0	
Shin-Etsu Chem			1420	+10	
Shindengen Elec			8630	+130	
Sony Corp			805	+35	
Sumitomo Elec Ind.			1740	+0	
Suntory & Metal Ind.			805	+35	
Takada Chemicals			6290	+20	
TDK Corp			3980	+10	
Tokio Marine & Fire			1990	+10	
Tokai Electric Power			3730	+80	
Tokyo Electric Ind			2170	+5	
Toppan Printing			1230	+10	
Toray Ind Inc.			2460	-30	
Toshiba Electric Ltd			1200	-20	
Toyota Motor			980	+3	
Yaskawa Elec			2460	-30	
Provided by Nomura Investment					
Banking (Mitsui), Bahrain					

Dead Sea: once a trade route

As far back as 2,300 years

QUMRAN, Occupied West Bank. (AP) Modern visitors see few boats and only sparse settlement along the shore of the Dead Sea, but experts say the region was a lively commercial centre as far back as 2,300 years ago.

Archaeologist, a geo-chemist, said three stone anchors and mooring ropes found recently in the Dead Sea were the "first datable evidence" to support the theory that the Dead Sea was an active commercial route as far back as the 4th century BC.

"The Dead Sea was not so dead," said Gideon Hadas, an antiquities authority archaeologist. "This is a misleading name given to the lake by the British."

He said carbon-14 testing at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot on well-preserved fiber rope fragments left open the possibility that the anchors were from ships that sank in the first Middle East oil war.

According to ancient historians, a huge naval battle was fought in 312 BC when Antigonus, the Seleucid ruler of Syria, tried to seize control of the trade in asphalt. He was repelled by the superior archery of the Nabateans of southern Jordan who were backed by Egypt.

Although there was uncertainty about the date because of a 100-year margin of error in dating, Nissenbaum said there was a "possibility that the anchors are mute witnesses to that battle."

Hadas, who lives in the Kibbutz Ein Gedi communal farm found the 100-kilogramme (220-pound) anchors along the western shore of the lake.

Hadas said the ropes were well preserved because of the high salt content of the water and suggested other remains, even wooden boats, might also be nestled in the seabed.

Asphalt, which came to the surface in large blocks from fissures in the seabed, was prized by ancient traders. Nissenbaum said it was used as mortar for buildings, an embalming agent in the Egyptian mummification process, a medicine to treat skin wounds and as a bug-killer.

In a new study of Dead Sea shipping, Nissenbaum said that up to the end of the crusader era there was active boat traffic on the lake. Ships ferried wheat and corn grown in southern Jordan along the 80-kilometre (50-mile) length of the salt sea to the northern end where roads led to Jericho and Jerusalem.

Along the shores, there was a large Jewish farming community at Ein Gedi and Hasmonian kings a series of fortresses in the area.

The Dead Sea region, surrounded by barren mountains and rocky desert, fell into economic decline after the crusades.

Today no ships ply its salty waters except for a small flotilla of Israeli military patrol boats. Only a few small settlements dot its shores, and foreign visitors came mostly to the health spas that promote the curative powers, especially for those afflicted with skin diseases, of the Dead Sea waters and mineral-rich mud.

Robert Eissenman, chairman of the religious studies department at California state university in Long Beach, suggests today's image of the dead sea as a misleading view of the ancient, keepers of the Dead Sea scrolls.

Traditional theories about the sea's portage as a small isolated community of hermits who sought refuge in a remote wilderness.

Holiday horror stories hit Morocco

RABAT, (Reuters). Although officially Moroccan tourism is booming, people in the trade are worried. Travel agents fear that reports of bogus guides, rapacious bazaar merchants and double-booked hotel rooms will discourage high-spending visitors from Europe.

Tourism Minister Moussa Saadi, speaking at a recent tourist trade exhibition in Casablanca, said the number of foreign visitors rose last year by 27 per cent to a record 2.15 million.

But Moroccan newspapers said that figure does not tell the whole story. According to their reports, the trade is in crisis.

The Rabat opposition daily L'Opinion said over a million of last year's visitors came from North Africa, including over 900,000 from Algeria. Algerians have flooded in since the border was reopened in May 1988 after a 12-year closure.

Because of shortages at home, one travel agent said, "Algerians come to Morocco on shopping sprees, to buy food, blue jeans, razor blades and things like that. Many of them don't even stay in a hotel but sleep in their cars."

On the other hand, the number of French, Spanish, British and West German tourists was down. There were four per cent fewer French visitors, 11 per cent fewer Spaniards, 12 per cent fewer Britons and two per cent fewer West Germans.

"This is a problem, not only because they are traditionally the biggest contingent, but also because they spend much more, stay in the best hotels," the travel agent said.

In the southern city of Marrakesh, ringed by date palms against a backdrop of snow-capped mountains, hotels averaged only 50 per cent occupancy in December. In previous years, they had been booked solid months in advance.

"For the first time since I have been in business there was room at the Inn in Marrakesh at Christmas and New Year," complained a veteran tour operator specialising in packages for Britons.

"Marrakesh used to be the 'in place' for jet-setters on winter vacation," he said. "Now they are reluctant to come and I think it is mainly because they are pestered to death by hordes of hustlers, so-called guides, pickpockets and beggars."

"I've seen little old ladies so scared they dare not get out of the bus when they are touring the historic monuments," said Marrakesh resident Abdullah Soukry.

West of Marrakesh, the seaside resort of Agadir boasts 300 days of sunshine a year and draws visitors from northern Europe all the year round.

But West German tour operator Dieter Roland said: "People come once, but only about three per cent ever come back."

He said clients complained of exorbitant prices for food and drink, hotels which took bookings when they were already full, sloppy service and harassment by self-appointed guides hoping for kickbacks on sales of shoddy handicrafts who entice them into bazaars.

L'Opinion devoted a full page to six articles on the problem of bogus guides, saying their numbers had risen in a disturbing and alarming way over the last 10 years.

"God only knows how many 'guides' there are, looking for easy prey. They are all over the place, at hotels, stations, markets," wrote Lahcen Azzabi, blaming widespread unemployment.

Government policy is to recommend tourists to use only official guides, distinguishable by special brass badges.

The Casablanca daily Al Bayane said tourists were regarded as pigeons to be plucked. It listed lamentable practices which it said were the fault of professionals in the trade, not the government:

"Overbooking, swindles by guides and bazaar, harassment by street vendors, shameful restaurant bills, prohibitive taxi fares, bureaucratic vexations, failure to fulfill promises and sudden increases in tariffs given to tour operators."

Al Bayane said the "detestable image" of those working in tourism was turning foreigners away from the country.

Morocco, only three hours away from European capitals, has a huge tourism potential, with ancient walled cities like imperial Fez and Marrakesh, romantic kasbahs (crenellated castles) and oases in the south, lakes and spectacular mountain scenery in addition to a string of seaside resorts like Agadir and Tangier.

Official statistics put hotel capacity at the end of 1988 at over 135,000 beds, including more than 110,000 in the up-market luxury category. The United Arab Emirates group Liwa has agreed to spend \$247 million on five more luxury hotels.

Foreign exchange earned from tourism quadrupled to 8.8 billion dirhams (over \$1 billion) between 1981 and 1988, making it the third major source after the phosphate industry and remittances by emigrant workers.

A Tourism Ministry official, who asked not to be identified, said: "Of course we know about the guide problem. It is serious but it is a very delicate problem. We are doing our best because, as you know, there is a lot at stake."

Kelly's walking tall and proud

LITTLE schoolgirl Kelly Jackson hurries about so fast between classes that teachers have jokingly suggested she should wear a crash helmet.

Even her classmates tend to forget the truth that the plucky five-year-old is severely disabled.

Kelly is a victim of crippling spina bifida. But thanks to a specially designed walking brace she can get around by herself and go to a normal school.

Her mum Linda, 30, told me: "When Kelly was born I didn't think she would ever walk. But with the brace she can go to school and be independent."

"She took to it like a duck to water. And she won't go to school without it. It makes her the same as everyone else and she can compete with them."

The walking brace, which has metal bars strapped to her sides, supports Kelly and enables her to move her legs.

Although Linda, from Oxford, is delighted with the walker, she admitted: "Kelly is too fast with it! At school they have asked that she wear a crash helmet because she is too wild!"

Kelly, like thousands of other paralysed people, has been given the chance to move about and be independent thanks to a bunch of dedicated hi-tech miracle workers.

Designers using the fast-developing science of orthotics — the use of external devices to correct skeletal weaknesses — now make a variety of braces, walking aids, frames and chairs to beat the most crippling handicaps.

"At the forefront of the new techniques are the hardworking staff of the Orthotics Department at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre in Oxford. They are dedicated to improving the quality of life for those who are unable to move unaided, whether through disease or accident."

Among the hospital's distinguished patients is former Croydon PC David Prebble who was paralysed from the chest down after falling from a multi-storey car park 15 years ago as he chased a criminal.

He had resigned himself to life in a wheelchair, but now, with the help of a specially designed brace, he can walk again.

Prebble, 42, is now working on the Nuffield Orthotics Appeal committee to raise £1 million for the hospital which did so much for him.

He told me: "I first got involved in the appeal when the NHS decided to do an assessment in Oxford of the American walking brace and the English walking brace."

"I realised that the conditions at Nuffield were abysmal. I mean really awful. To practise walking with the frame, I had to go half a mile away to a gym, because Nuffield didn't have the space."

Although the building is grotty and the equipment inadequate, Prebble can only praise the staff who made it possible for him to walk again.

He said: "The staff at Nuffield are brilliant. I'm a big fellow, 17 stone and 6ft 2in. And so when the orthotists tried me in the American brace it buckled. The English brace worked. But they weren't happy and kept working on the American brace, strengthening it and making it usable."

"They just kept at it. They're brilliant."

Jeanette Franklin, who is Appeal secretary at Nuffield, told me: "It was quite a feat to make that aid for David. He is the heaviest patient we've ever had here."

"The English brace which David uses cost £1,200 — which is quite a small sum of money to enable someone to walk."

"If you think about it, patients without these walking aids are confined to a wheelchair. If they can't get out of that chair they get all sorts of things wrong with them — like blood-clots and urinary infections."

"So if they can stand up — with the help of some of these frames — not only is it marvellous that they can go to the pub with their pals, but of course their body is moving. So it is very beneficial."

About 13,000 such aids and frames — known as orthoses — are produced by the department each year for patients at 30 hospitals. They are designed for, among others, spina bifida patients and cerebral palsy sufferers, as well as those totally or partially paralysed in accidents.

Jeanette said: "I think these aids give patients a better quality of life and makes them independent. You can't ask for anything more."

"The children who use the special wheelchairs or walking frames we make can go to a normal school and it enables them to live a normal life."

Nuffield has designed and made wheelchairs for people with incomplete or broken spines, which give comfort and also independence.

The hospital's orthotists have designed special crash helmets which prevent young epileptics injuring themselves during a fit. They also make many different types of surgical shoes.

Every patient has a different requirement, no piece of equipment is the same. About 30 per cent of the patients are children.

Nuffield's Chief Orthotist Terry Macmillan said: "We have to design all braces as individual to each child. Every person is a new case."

All the aids, frames and chairs are designed, made and fitted at Nuffield. Casts are taken of the part of the patient's body which needs to be supported or corrected.

The cost is then filled with plaster-of-Paris from which a representation of the patient's limb can be produced. On to this the different types of plastic are moulded to build the required frame or aid.

Jeanette Franklin explained: "The problem we have here and the reason we need to raise the money, is that the department is so small and cramped."

"There is no room for people to be fitted privately. It is desperately small and grotty."

"Be the service here is superb. The staff are willing and kind and helpful."

Margaret Tebbitt, wife of top Tory politician Norman Tebbitt, received treatment at Nuffield after the IRA bombing of the Grand Hotel in Brighton left her paralysed.

Mr Tebbitt, impressed by the staff at Nuffield but disturbed by the facilities, is now chairman of the Appeal.

Jeanette told me: "He is great because he is an active chairman and is so involved. Which is good news for us."

Future fund-raising events include a sponsored children's party at Thorpe Park for 100 handicapped children. The appeal has already raised more than £130,000 since its launch in June.

Jeanette told me: "It's hard work but we hope to reach our £1 million target."

Donations can be sent to The Nuffield Orthotics Appeal, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Oxford OX3 7LD.



FAMILY DOCTOR
By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

Thyroid therapy

QUESTION: We're quite concerned about the health of First Lady Barbara Bush and don't understand the use of radiation treatments for her thyroid condition. Can you explain the relationship of her eye symptoms with her other problems with the thyroid?

ANSWER: Although I have not been consulted by the White House about Mrs Bush's condition (although I would gladly make a house call, there have been sufficient details reported in the media for me to understand what has been going on and explain it to you).

The first lady suffers from an overactive thyroid, (also called hyperthyroidism, Graves' disease and goiter). Graves' disease may cause a swelling in the neck (goiter), which is the enlarged thyroid gland itself, rapid heart beat (tachycardia), tremor, increased nervousness and sweating, weight loss, as well as a typical bulging of the eyes, excessive tearing and photophobia (eye pain from bright light), although I don't know that Mrs. Bush has all of these symptoms.

What is clear is that she was treated with radioactive iodine April 12 to destroy some of the thyroid tissue. Following that, she was treated with prednisone, a cortisone-like medication, to help reduce the irritation and swelling. Reportedly, her response to these medications was not satisfactory.

The muscles that lie behind the eyeball, and which control the movement of the eye, were swollen, a common situation in Graves' disease. This swelling causes the eyes to bulge forward, and also puts pressure on the optic nerve which is in the same area, and may impair the vision. The course of daily, low-intensity radiation, which is scheduled for 10 days, is aimed at the muscles behind the eye, and hopefully, will reduce the swelling. This treatment has been used for a number of years at Walter Reed Hospital, where Mrs Bush is being treated. This should help alleviate some of the discomfort and symptoms that were of concern to Mrs Bush.

Incidentally, the disease is named for Robert Graves, an Irish physician, who first described the condition in 1935, in the London Medical Surgical Journal.

QUESTION: One day in our paper you gave information and a telephone number for cancer patients to call. Would you repeat this number, please? Are there any booklets to send for?

ANSWER: I'm happy to repeat this very important information for you and all other readers who may have a similar need. This time, either clip this column and send it, or make a note of this number for future reference. The number of the Cancer Information Service (CIS) of the National Cancer Institute is 1-800-4-Cancer. There is also an address for the CIS you may wish to write to: Blair Building, room 414, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20892.

The Cancer Information Service provides cancer information to patients and their families and the general public. Of course, they can't make diagnoses, or offer comments on treatments, but they will provide you with any publication distributed by the National Cancer Institute. You may get a busy signal when you first dial, but keep at it. When you get through, your call will be directed by a computer and your responses on a touch-tone phone. If you choose to request publications, your call will be answered by a real person. If you're not sure of the publication, ask for material on the subject of your interest or request the publication list, which will detail all of their offerings.

1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

Figure appeared in UK court as plaintiff

'Living statues' finally return home



PRICELESS bronze statues, more than a thousand years old, are to make the 6,000-mile journey back to their rightful home after making legal history.

The sacred Hindu figures of dancing gods, between eight inches and three feet high, were stolen from temples in southern India. But it was only when they came on to the foreign market that experts realised exactly what they were.

A similar statue of the same age — of the Lord Shiva, God of the Dance, was valued at £275,000 nearly eight years ago. Since then prices have risen still further, but to Hindus the figures are more precious than any amount of money.

They believe that the statues, which date back to the Chola periods of the 9th century, gain life as soon as they are installed in their own temple. To them, the statues are living deities to be treated with great reverence.

It is against the law to export such valuable figures from India without a licence. And the statues made British legal history after they were seized by the police Arts and Antiques Squad when they went on sale in London.

There was a court case to establish true ownership of one of the figures, which the buyer claimed to have bought in good faith. The judge, Justice Kennedy, respected the Hindu view that the beautiful bronze gods are alive.

He ruled that the figure should appear in court as a plaintiff. And lawyers for the prosecution found themselves speaking for the exotic statue that couldn't speak for itself. Detective sergeant Colin Bennett from the Arts and Antiques Squad had the difficult task of identifying all the figures and making sure they were returned to the right hands.

He said: "The restoration process of these statues has taken a long time and was very detailed. We had to obtain expert opinions from the Indian government to establish their authenticity."

"And the statues had to be correctly identified as those stolen from a great many temples in the Tamil Nadu State of south India."

"I feel a great sense of satisfaction now in knowing that the statues are being returned to their correct owners. It makes all the hard work that went before worthwhile."

The figures were formally handed over to the Indian High Commission in London during a ceremony to mark the importance of the occasion. Now they are to be shipped back to the temples where they belong, where their dignity will be restored.

Demand increases for mammoth tusks

Ivory trade ban but at what cost?

NAIROBI, Jan 29. (Reuters). Those who thought banning the ivory trade would save the elephant reckoned without the tusks of its extinct relative, the mammoth.

Since an international conference banned the world trade in elephant ivory last October, demand for mammoth tusks, excavated from the frozen wastes of north-eastern Siberia, has soared.

Kenya-based conservationist Esmond Bradley Martin told Reuters that the Soviet Union, which sold five tonnes of mammoth ivory to India for \$25 a kilo in 1986, is now asking 800 to \$1,000 a kilo from prospective Japanese buyers.

The mammoth, a type of hairy elephant adapted to live in Arctic climates, died out about 10,000 years ago, but tens of thousands of mammoth carcasses have been preserved in Siberia's permanently frozen sub-soil.

Wildlife experts fear a resurgence of trade in mammoth ivory could be used as cover for an illegal trade in elephant tusks.

"Mammoth ivory affords substantial cover for unlawful elephant ivory and the economists' prediction that a ban would push the price up appears to be correct," Ian Parker, an elephant expert based in Nairobi, told Reuters.

Mammoth ivory, which once sold at less than half the price of elephant ivory, is now three times as dear.

Trading

Britain has defied the ban on ivory trading, which took effect on January 18, to allow its colony Hong Kong six more months to dispose of 670 tonnes of elephant tusks in stock.

Burundi, which until 1987 was the main centre for trading poached ivory in Africa, is sitting on 86 tonnes of tusks.

Parker fears that these and other stocks will be shifted to third countries only to reappear in traditional markets labelled as mammoth ivory, on which no trading restrictions apply since the animal is extinct.

Mammoth ivory from Siberia has been traded extensively in Asia and northern Europe for at least 1,000 years.

The English trader Basset Digby, who bought mammoth ivory in Siberia in the early years of this century, said 30 tonnes a year used to pass through the town of Yakutsk.

During the spring thaw, ivory hunters would excavate tusks buried in the frozen tundra which had been exposed by the erosion of river banks or the battering of the sea against the coast.

"Tusks are to be found at low tide, sometimes quite a grove of them sticking up in the sand, their drooping curves making them look, as the Yakuts graphically put it, like great candles that have been placed too near the fire," Digby wrote.

Preserved

Most of the mammoth carcasses have been reduced to skeletons, but some have been preserved perfectly in the ice.

"People have even eaten the meat and some mammoths have been found because of wolves and other animals tearing away pieces of the exposed flesh," Parker said.

Even when the flesh decays, mammoth ivory tens of thousands of years old often remains in good condition.

"The cold has delayed the normal chemical and biological processes of decay and much of the ivory is close to its original state," Parker said.

There are differences between the tusks of mammoths and modern elephants.

"Mammoth ivory tends to be longer and more heavily curved," Parker said. "The ivory is frequently stained by minerals in colours ranging from pure blue through pinks and reds to russets, some of which are very attractive."

Mammoth ivory is also harder to carve than elephant ivory and cracks more easily, which has historically made it cheaper.

"But the best mammoth ivory is virtually indistinguishable from elephant ivory to anyone but an expert," Parker said.

The trade in mammoth tusks virtually disappeared after the 1917 revolution in Russia, but it re-emerged in the late 1980s as ivory prices soared and rampant poaching decimated the elephant population of Africa.

By most estimates, Africa's elephant population has halved to about 600,000 over the last 10 years.

Consumes

Bradley Martin said traders in Japan, which consumes 40 per cent of the world's ivory, had told him that since they could no longer import elephant tusks, they were planning to negotiate imports of Soviet mammoth ivory, despite the high price.

A delegation of Japanese ivory traders was due to visit Moscow in February, he added.

Most countries have agreed to respect the ban on ivory trading declared by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (Cites).

But some, including South Africa and Zimbabwe which have stable elephant populations, and China, which is a major importer of ivory, have said they plan to continue trading.

Other countries which are not members of Cites, such as South Korea and many Gulf states, are under no obligation to stop trading, and environmentalists are resigned to seeing a restricted legal trade in elephant tusks continue.

Many wildlife experts, including Parker, were sceptical that a Cites ban would stop the ivory trade in the first place.

The renewed interest being shown in mammoth tusks reinforces their conviction that it will continue.

Happy birthday



Sherin Mary Philip turned 6 on January 26



Rohit Chaudhary turned 9 on January 25



Maya Pious turned 6 on January 28



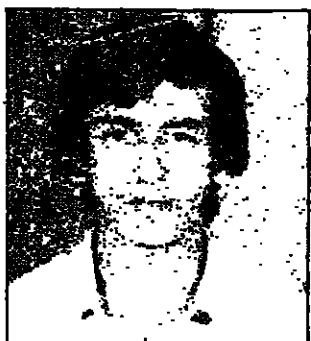
Faisal Bashir turned 6 on January 20



Nancy Remedius on January 26



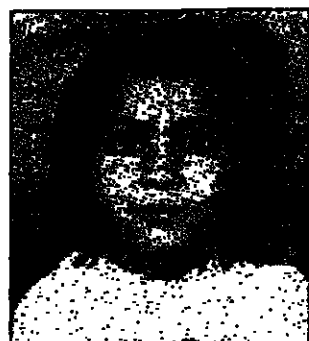
Farhana Moghal turned 5 on January 22



Vincent Correia turned 15 on January 22



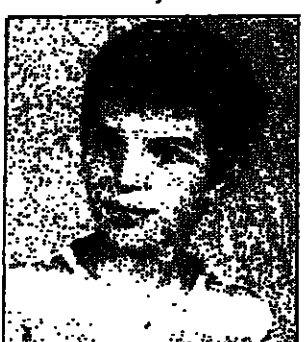
Faisal Khalid turned 3 on January 26



Saddad Perwaiz on January 21



Aalia Yasmin turns 12 on January 30



Martin Svitel turns 11 on January 31



Farida Mohsin on January 28

Crackers and Cheese

By Julie Hodgson

CRACKERS and Cheese were two tiny mice, that lived in the back of an old Grandfather clock. Crackers was a brown mouse and Cheese was a white mouse. They had lived in the clocks for as long as they can remember. They had many friends that lived near them and often went visiting. On one particular morning, Crackers woke up and thought that the clock was awfully quiet.

"What has happened to our clock?" asked Crackers. "It's stopped ticking," exclaimed a very surprised Cheese.

"But it's ALWAYS ticked, that's why we live here, it's safe when it ticks," said Crackers.

Well Crackers was certainly right, because the people that owned the clock, had noticed the clock had stopped, and were already calling the clock maker, to come and take their clock and fix it for them. Little did the owners know that two small mice lived in the bottom.

So Crackers and Cheese decided that they would temporarily move out of the clock and hope that it did come back and not be thrown away.

They stayed at the mouse in the floor boards home. His name was Woody, and had mate and six baby mice, called, Chip.

Flip, Trip, Skip, Dip and Nip. It was quite crowded for the few days that Crackers and Cheese were there, but they enjoyed the company of the little ones.

On the day that the Grandfather clock was due back (according to Cheese that is) the two mice were up bright and early, and looking out of the window for 'their clock', that sat and waited for a long time, watching the cars go by the house, one car did pull in, but it was just the owner.

"Oh what ever shall we do, if our home doesn't come back," sighed Cheese.

"Not too worry — look," said Crackers. He pointed to a van turning into the path. It was 'their' clock. "Whoooopee!" they shouted together.

They watched the two men unload the big old clock and bring it into the house, and put it back in the correct place. The two mice jumped up and down with excitement.

"Not long now, and we'll have our home back," said Cheese.

"I think every one has left from the hall now, so we can go in," said Crackers.

After they checked the coast was clear, they thanked the floor board family and set off to 'their' clock.

It was so nice to be home again, and most important, they could hear the beautiful sound of the clock going tick tock.



My mother

My mother is sweet, as sweet as honey, she tells me everything, everything that's funny.

She gives me food, she gives me clothes, but the best I want, is her love.

My mother is a teacher, she teaches me languages, she teaches me writing, and every little thing.

She's kind to me, she's gentle to me, and all I want, is my mummy.

By Shireen Sayed Alim, 8 years, Indian School Abbasiya.



Reminiscence and hope

1989-90

As the past year has slowly rolled by... Upon the past days I cast a thoughtful eye... I try to reminisce how '89 has been... I try to gather all that I gained... I cry at the sorrows by which I have been pained...

I think of the changes that have occurred in my life... Changes for the better or worse which I still have to find...

I try and master up all my strength... to make every moment of the New Year one of great depth...

I thank everyone for making my stay on earth so eventful...

And pray to God to make 1990 even more beautiful...



Pritha Lal, ex-student, Indian School.



Variety

Joining Sean's business is a steal

Connery, Hoffman, Broderick team up in 'Family Business'



THREE hoods, bent on a robbery, are disguised and ready for crime. But, in real life, they would have to steal the contents of an entire bank — and then some — to make it all worthwhile.

For, two of the robbers in the new comedy movie *Family Business* are among the highest earners in Hollywood. Masked men Sean Connery and Dustin Hoffman could laugh all the way to the bank... while taking their own earnings to it.

In the movie, Sean and Dustin, with Matthew Broderick, are grandfather, father and grandson. They make up a family firm, intent on a \$1 million heist, robbing a research laboratory of its secrets.

It's all a drama of family life as much as crime. For 59-year-old grandfather Sean Connery — has tried to pass on his larcenous trade to son Vito, played by Dustin Hoffman. But Vito, after a sour taste of jail, has turned into a respectable, middle-class teen.

But young Matthew — who plays grandson Adam — has inherited his grandfather's taste for the illegal life. And, as far as Vito is concerned, the worst thing of all is that father and son need him as an essential part of their plot to rob the laboratory of one of the basic secrets of life — D.N.A.

Bigger than gelignite. So a robbery they all go. The result? Cinemagoers will have to see for themselves.

Balancing veteran actor Sean Connery, aged 59, amazingly, plays Dustin Hoffman's father... even though their ages are only seven years apart.

Sean, recently voted the World's Sexiest Man by a magazine's readers explained: "The movie is a tale of generations. I had some initial reservations about playing the part of someone who was originally supposed to be quite a bit older than myself and doing all these extraordinary things.

But we resolved the age issue early on, and I had complete confidence that the yarn would work."

The movie's writer Vincent Patrick says: "Vito is the most ambivalent of the three men. He was raised by his father to be an out-and-out thief. He was given the philosophy that you take what you can from life."

"This puts Vito in jail. But he eventually gives up his criminal activity, not because he gets religion, but because he doesn't want to go back to prison."

"He ends up raising his son, Adam, with values in which he doesn't entirely believe. And Adam ends up wanting to join the family business, so the audience would believe that a very bright young man might perceive him as a romantic role model."

Patrick got the idea for the story when, as a new grandfather, he noticed personality traits in his grandchild that had

apparently passed over his son.

He says: "I thought it would be fascinating to do a story about a grandfather who had been a lifelong criminal having a son who turns out not to be one. But the grandson seems to have inherited some of the grandfather's criminal genes. The grandfather and grandson then put the father, who is the middleman of the drama, into a terrible dilemma."

Producer Lawrence Gorgon, responsible for *Die Hard* and *Field of Dreams*, says: "Sean was the key. We knew the story turned on the charm and appeal of the grandfather. Face it, a man who is encouraging his grandson to take up a life of crime is not, on the surface, an easy guy to like."

"We needed someone irresistibly charismatic, so the audience would believe that a very bright young man might perceive him as a romantic role model."

And in the charisma field, there is no one quite like grizzled Sean Connery.

Weighing star performance

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): Pauline Collins, the title star of "Shirley Valentine," flew from London to Beverly Hills to attend the Hollywood Foreign Press Association's Golden Globe awards.

She lost. The middle-aged, slightly plump Collins had been nominated for best performance by an actress in a comedy or musical for her performance as a discontented English housewife who discovered a new life on a trip to Greece.

It was a superlative performance that won uniform praise from critics.

But at the Golden Globes she lost out to Jessica Tandy's remarkable performance in "Driving Miss Daisy."

In another category, the Golden Globe for best actress in a drama went to Michelle Pfeiffer for her role as the sultry vocalist in "The Fabulous Baker Boys."

Doubtless Tandy and Pfeiffer will be nominated next month for the Academy Award for best actress of the year.

And there is a strong possibility Collins also will be nominated.

The question is, how will the 4,700 voting Academy

members weigh one performance against the other if they are all nominated in the same category?

All three were outstanding. How do you choose?

Frequently box-office success is a factor in the nominations, but not this year. "Shirley Valentine" has grossed only \$5.9 million on a handful of US screens. "Driving Miss Daisy" isn't doing much better with \$9.1 million. "The Fabulous Baker Boys" isn't that fabulous with \$17.4 million in the till.

But there are other factors involved.

Pfeiffer has contractual agreements for future films with several studios, which might be enough to sway votes in her favour.

Tandy, 80, is a veteran campaigner who might win the sentimental vote because this could be her last chance at an Oscar.

Collins apparently has only her performance going for her. That is considerable, though, because without her there would be no "Shirley Valentine," whereas Pfeiffer and Tandy were not called on to carry their films almost single-handedly.

Actor-director Branagh laments

Shunning of Shakespeare

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): It's too bad filmgoers so regularly eschew Shakespeare, because one of the year's best films in "Henry V," directed by a brilliant young Irishman named Kenneth Branagh.

Laurence Olivier's "Henry V" in 1946 was lavishly praised by critics. "Hamlet" won the best picture Oscar in 1948, and Olivier got the best actor award. Olivier's "Richard III" in 1955 won him another Oscar nomination.

The theaters, meanwhile were empty.

Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor suffered a similar fate at the 1967 box office with "The Taming of the Shrew."

Even the genius of Orson Welles directing and starring in "Macbeth" could not keep it from bombing.

Both Olivier's and Welles' versions of "Othello" capsize financially.

Some of the finest movies made have been Shakespeare's works but, like the Elizabethan language, they don't translate well for fans of "Ghostbusters" or "Back To The Future."

More's the pity because one of the year's best films currently in release and with Academy Award potential is "Henry V," directed by and starring Branagh.

The national board of review, in fact, voted Branagh best director. "Henry V" is testimony to Branagh's massive talent, especially considering this is the first movie he has ever directed. He is only 29.

Welles was proclaimed a genius when at 25 he directed and starred in "Citizen Kane" back in 1941.

"Citizen Kane" became a classic. But Kane was a thinly disguised William Randolph Hearst, not a long-dead English monarch, so the picture did well at the box office after many hassles over its release.

For whatever reason, Shakespeare's antiquity would appear to work against him, no matter how brilliantly and well-mounted his works are presented in motion pictures.

Public apathy to Shakespeare, it has been opined, is attributable to the mentality of the largest demographic representation of filmgoers, who would prefer "Lethal Weapon" over "The Merchant of Venice" any time.

Branagh, standing around the other day backstage at the Mark Taper forum where he was directing rehearsals of "King Lear," was an unremarkable looking man of medium height, brown hair and an unassuming demeanour.

But his eyes flash when he speaks of Shakespeare and movies.

"Shakespeare was a man of his time who wrote for Elizabethans about Henry V, who was a great legend," Branagh said. "Henry lived 200 years previously and was beloved for his victory at the battle of Agincourt. Henry was a great star."

"Shakespeare treated Henry V more kindly than he did other kings. Richard III was too vain. Henry VI was too weak. Richard III was too evil. Henry IV was an usurper. Henry V was a regular guy with the common touch and he was a young man, which was very important."

Branagh had hoped that as a youthful actor playing a heroic, youthful king realistically he would entice young Americans to theaters.

"To some degree we've succeeded," Branagh said. "Those young people who have seen 'Henry V' are very enthusiastic about it."

"Henry was exotic, flamboyant and exciting. He was a complicated person and with the perspective of time he became larger than life."

Branagh admits English kings and queens and other European royalty have proved a pretty dull lot in the past 100 years, hardly subjects for a

contemporary playwright looking for fascinating material.

"Maybe the secret lives of the current royals will seem exotic 100 years from now," he said. "Our proximity to them does not make for heroic figures."

Distance allows writers, directors and performers to take license, as I did with Henry V, presenting him in extremes. The part offers the richness and variety that 'Hamlet' offers a young actor.

"You must work on all Shakespearean plays in great detail to reduce them to the simplicity with which they first strike you when you read them. Today's actors have to avoid the declamatory acting style."

"The trick is to make historic figures real people, not stentorian caricatures or talking robots. In reality, the great historical monarchs made contact with their subjects, else they would have been driven out."

"All kings weren't patricians. They spoke as ordinary humans spoke and felt the same emotions."

Branagh admires Olivier, Peter O'Toole, Richard Burton, Albert Finney, John Gielgud and other great Shakespeareans, but he thinks modern acting techniques require different performances than those stars delivered.

One of his contemporary idols is Anthony Hopkins.

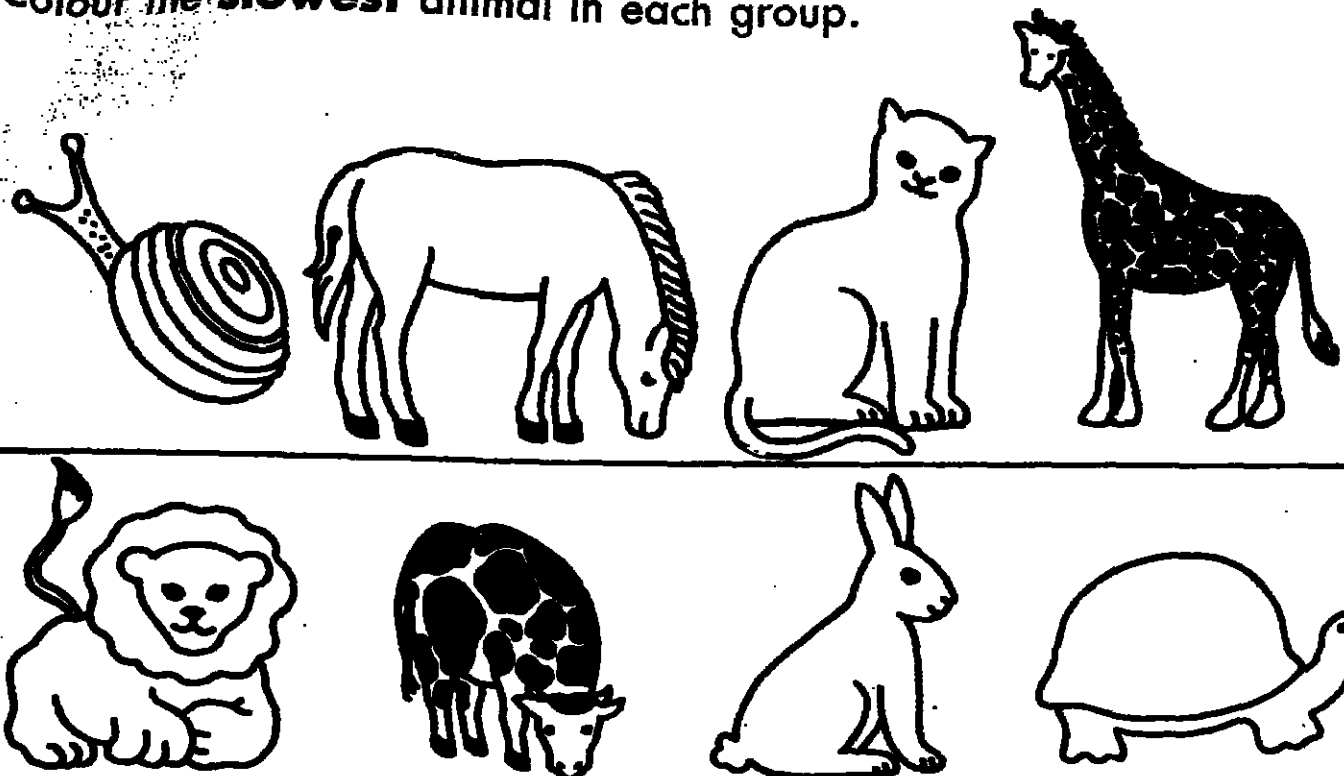
"In acting (and to free the demons inside myself)," he said, "I approach my work viscerally, not cerebrally. You really have to let yourself go to play Shakespeare well."

"You must live through your guts to reach audiences. O'Toole and Hopkins do that. They put their whole selves into the role. You stop thinking existing."

Young Branagh manages to do just that in "Henry V," which will not be seen by even a tiny fraction of the people who have gone to see "Look Who's Talking" twice.

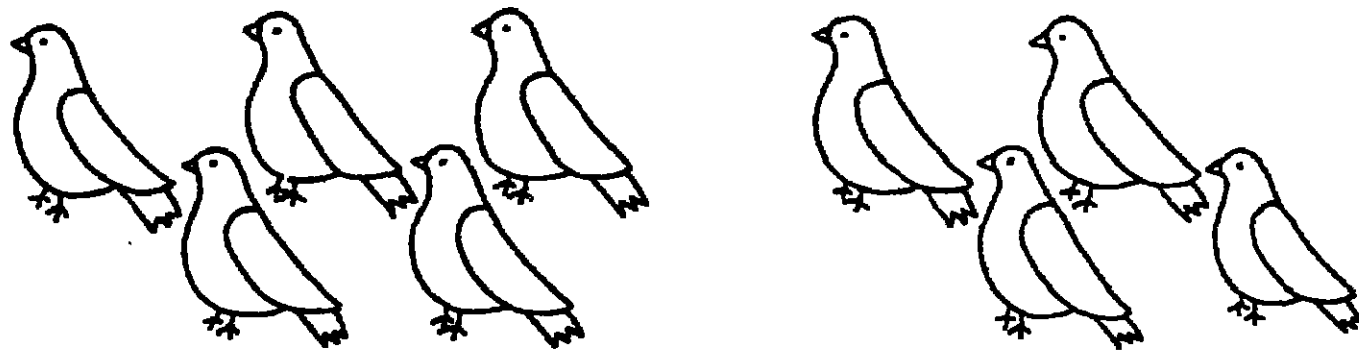
Slow

Colour the **slowest** animal in each group.



Most

Decide which group has the most pigeons. Colour it.



Just for laughs!

What's yellow on the inside and green on the outside?
A banana disguised as a cucumber.
Where does a dog go when he loses his tail?
To a re-tailer.

Where did Tarzan buy his clothes?
A jungle sale.

What did the lone ranger say when he went to the refuse tip?
"To-de-dump, to-de-dump, to-de-dump-dump..."

Word search

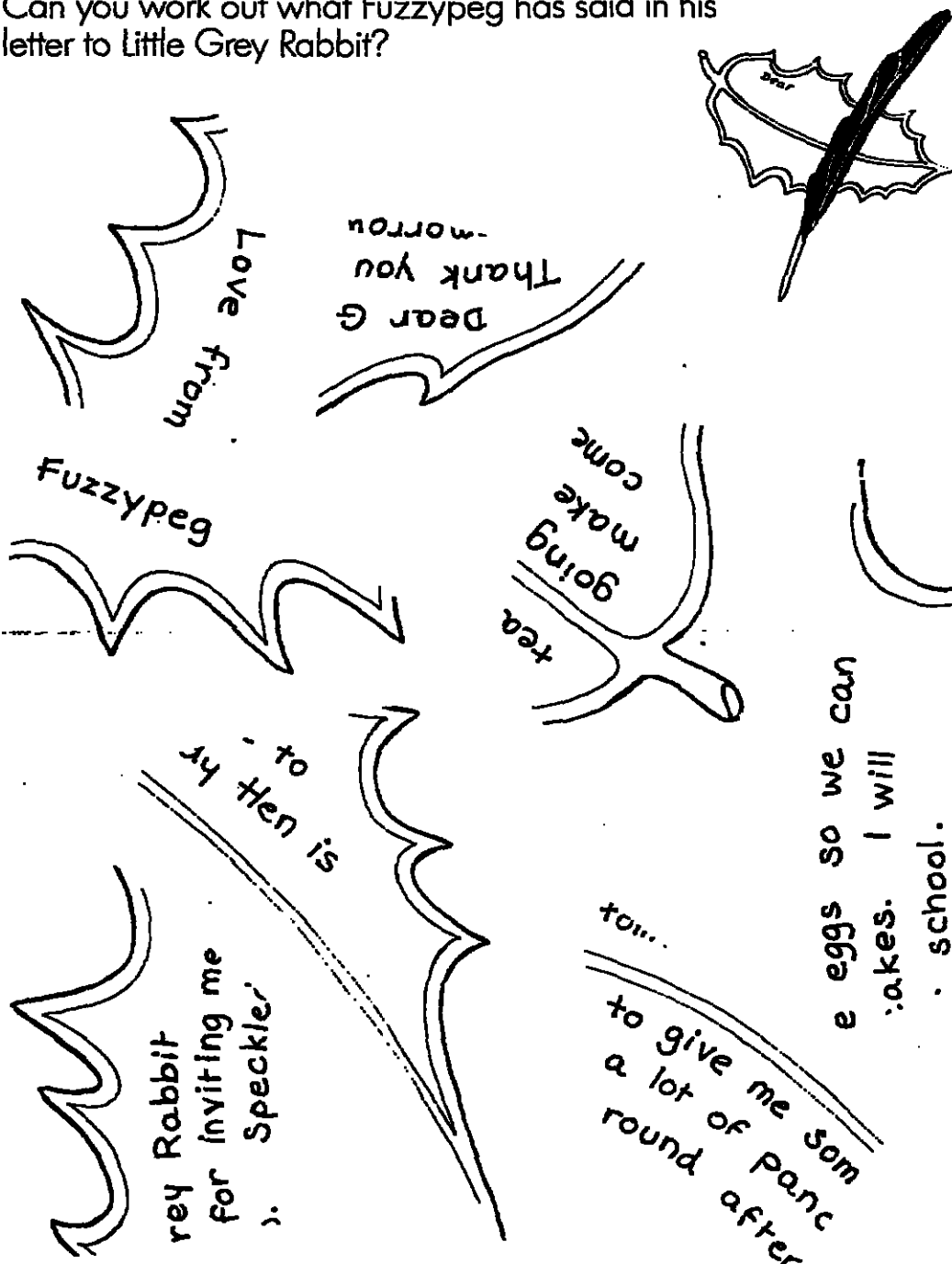
S W D S T E R C E S Y T R C A
E H F S K I G D G R D O B T R
N T Y A D S E N D S Y N R N T
U O S E S I R E A T A E E I
T H A E I H A R L L P I E R S
R C T G T Z I T W R L M N R T
O H N Y I S I O O E A A O U I
F I A W T E D T N R R T H C C
A L F V S I O R K T N C D C T
P D C M A T L E E E N L S S M
N R R L Y L T I V A R E E H A
D E S P I E U N B O M V T W K
T N E R E V I E W A N E A A E
C S H D G O I N G I C R R L P
H T R C I N O R T C E L E S E

CAN YOU CREATE A NEW TOY?

ABILITY	MEET
ARTISTIC	NOVELTIES
AWARE	NEED
CHALLENGE	PART
CHILDREN	PATENT
CLEVER	PLAYTHINGS
CREW	PROTOTYPES
CURRENT	REVIEW
DESIGN	RISKS
DIALS	ROYALTIES
DREAMERS	SECRET
ELECTRONIC	SELECT
FANTASY	SENDS
FASHION	TERMS
FORTUNES	TEST
GAMES	THRILL
GOING	TOYS
IDEA	TRENDS
INVENTORS	UNITS
INVEST	VALUE
KNOWLEDGE	WIZARDRY
MAKE	WORLD
MARKET	

What does the letter say?

Can you work out what Fuzzypeg has said in his letter to Little Grey Rabbit?



Action words

An **action word** may tell what two or more people, animals, or things do.
Do not add -s to the action words.
The people **like** the bus.

A. Complete the sentences.

1. The wheels on the bus _____ go _____ goes _____ around.
2. The people on the bus _____ look _____ looks _____ all around.

B. Write a sentence about what cars do.

C. Can a friend find your action word?

Firsts and lasts

The expression 'to eat humble pie' first came into use because the lower classes had to eat pies made out of the entrails, or innards, of animals at medieval feasts when the great folk ate roast joints. The entrails were called 'umbles', so 'humble pie' is a pun.

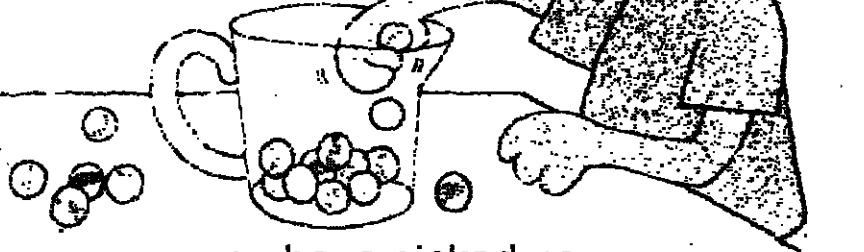
The idea of using gas as a means of lighting was first thought of in England in 1787.

The loud speaker was first used on top of the Eiffel Tower in 1900.

Join the science gang

How much can you hold in one hand?
To find out **you will need** a jug, some marbles, small plastic bricks, dried peas or beans and some sweets.

Put the marbles in the jug.
Put one hand into the jug
and pick up as many
marbles as you can.



Count how many you have picked up.
Write the number in the box.
Then do this again with the other things.

With one hand I can pick up

- ☐ marbles ☐ beans
☐ sweets ☐ bricks

Now ask a grown-up to try
picking up these things.

Notes to Parents:
Ask your child to predict the results of
this activity. Will you be able to pick
up more sweets or more beans?
Insert the stick up 3 marbles how
many do you think I can pick up?

BLONDIE



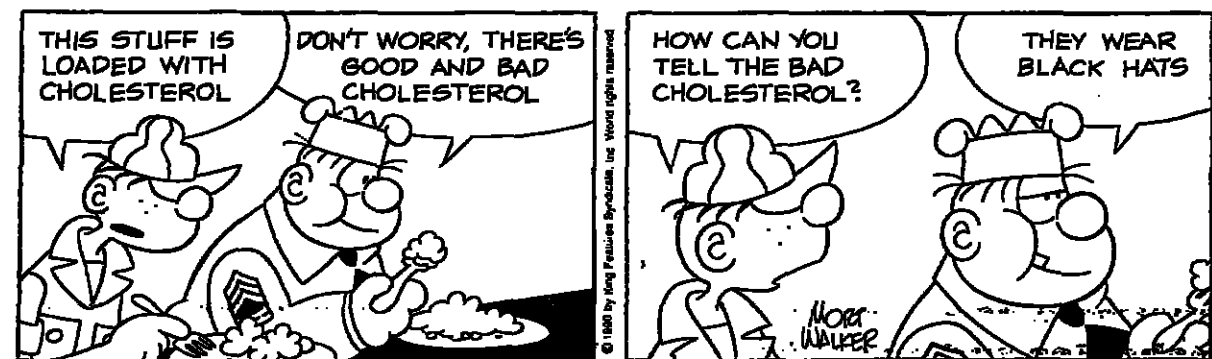
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



AGATHA CRUM



DEBBIE BAILEY



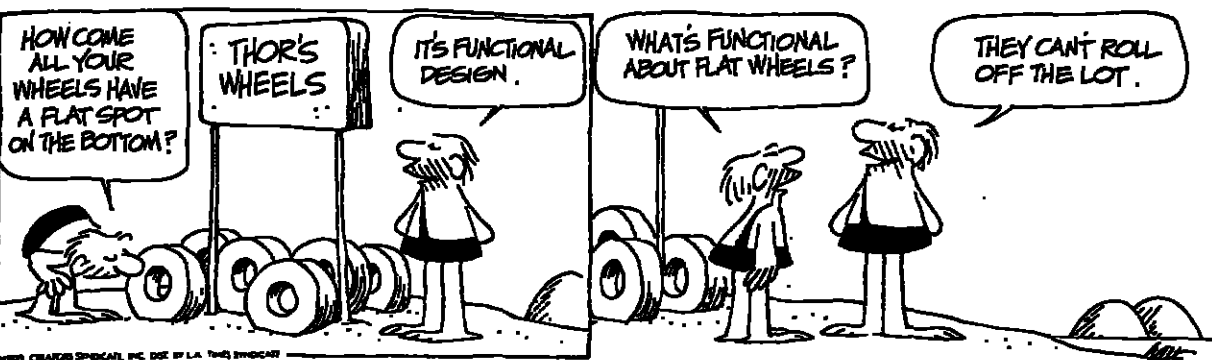
THE WIZARD OF ID



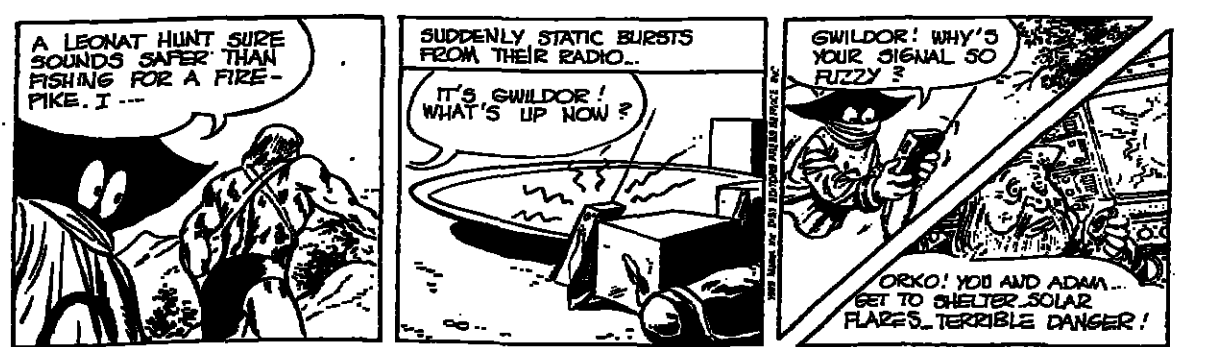
ANDY CAPP



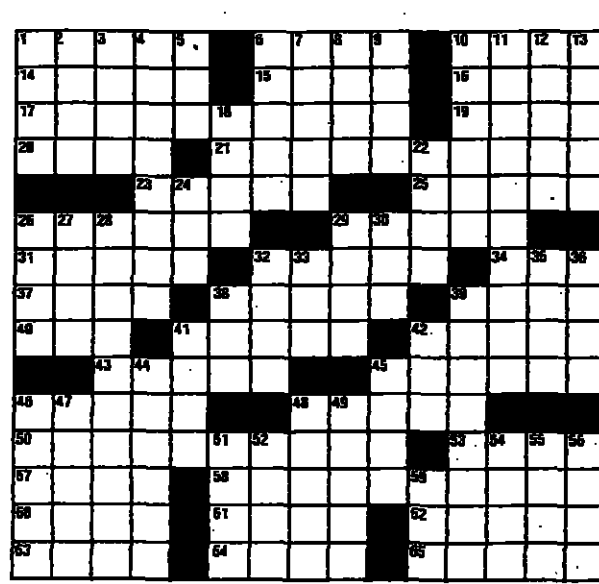
B.C.



RE-MAN



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- Rural sites
 - Athletic org.
 - Snow tire feature
 - Pseudonym
 - Multitude
 - Wine: Comb. form
 - It's considered offensive?
 - Wife, in law
 - Pronoun for seniors
 - Mother's helper
 - Colorful ducks
 - Winter wear
 - Laves
 - Nicholas
 - Change
 - TV revenue sources
 - Presently
 - Banana leaf fiber
 - Word with bill, book or boy
 - Brit. capital
 - Awkward
 - Band section
 - Organic compound
 - Vitamin A source
 - Tack
 - Debates
 - Lotion for men
 - Klin
 - Gang follower
 - Cabaret employee
 - Connelly from Edinburgh
 - Norse deity
 - Photo finish
 - Gets one's goat
 - Gold cloth
- DOWN
- Kismet
 - TV alien and others
 - Laugh
 - Race named for a Greek town
 - Type of missile: Abbr.
 - Relating to birth
 - Nursery needs
 - Chinese seaport
 - Author Rand and namesakes
 - Lenient towards
 - Abstainer
 - Not yet solved
 - Activists
 - Down with: Fr.
 - Footnote abbr.
 - Poetic always
 - False god
 - Florence's river
 - Choice meat
 - Faction
 - Collection of
 - Excuses
 - anecdotes
 - But, in Berlin
 - Chart
 - Pedestal part
 - Plant: Abbr.
 - One, in Paisley
 - Private
 - Applan Way, a.g.
 - Squealer
 - Fantails' locations
 - Undergrad of a sort
 - Certain singers
 - In search of
 - Precept
 - Sheeplike
 - Short-hop airplane: Abbr.
 - "I - dream, dear..."
 - Part of a Molière
 - Bray
 - Vary, in Vichy
 - Elsc. unit

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

PIRI AWARE ELMO
AVON SEVER NAIL
LETT HAIFA HIND
BOEVERUSWADE
RAS TEEN
AGENT JOE ACTED
RAIN OUT ARIOLA
BUCKED THE SYSTEM
UNREAD ELK ACE
STENS ARM BELTS
NERD TIN
THE DEERHUNTER
ARJO ALLEN IRON
WARY RIFLE RISE
LETIS SEEMS PAST

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
SHOW, BUT DON'T TELL

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 9 4 2
♥ A Q 7 5
♦ K Q 6
♣ K 10 4

WEST
♠ Q 8 5
♥ 9 6 3
♦ J 10 9 7 2
♣ A 8

EAST
♠ J 10 7 3
♥ J 10 8 2
♦ A 4
♣ 7 6 3

SOUTH
♠ A K 6
♥ K 4
♦ 8 5 3
♣ Q J 9 5 2

The bidding:

South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

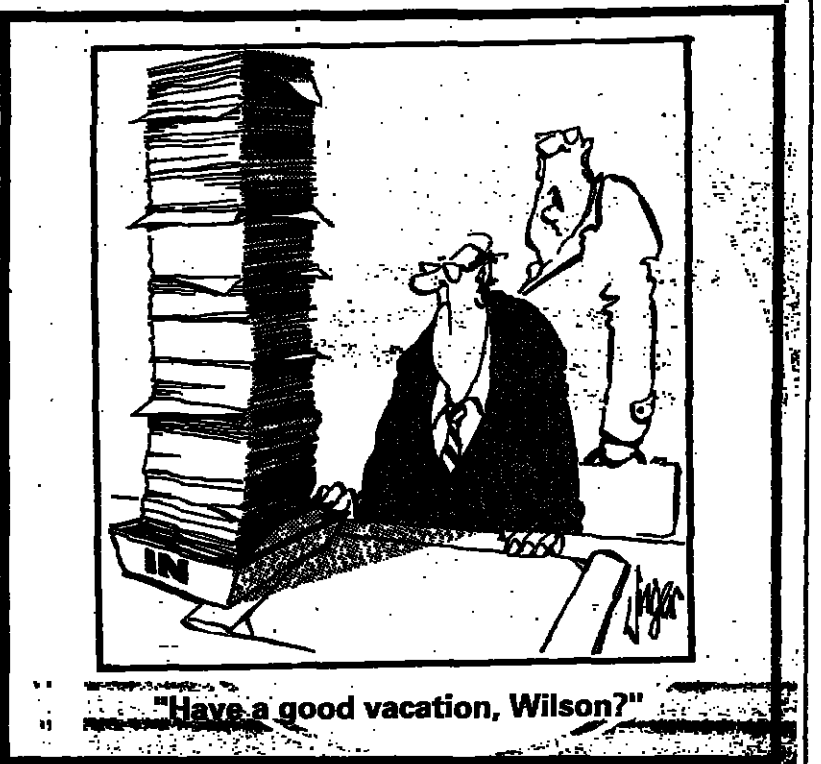
No matter what convention you add to your arsenal, in bidding or play, you have to give up something. Among the more popular defensive conventions adopted by experts is the lead of the jack, ten or nine against a no-trump contract shows possession of either none or two higher honors. That played a critical role in this hand from a team match.

The bidding at the two tables was identical. After South described a

balanced minimum North, with a full opening bid and also a balanced hand, had no ambitions beyond three no trump.

At both tables West led the jack of diamonds. At one table the lead had no conventional meaning and declarer had to guess whether it was away from the ace or not. With nothing to guide him, South elected to play the table's queen. East won the ace and returned a diamond and West forced out dummy's stopper. When West gained the lead with the ace of clubs, the defenders could cash just enough diamond tricks to defeat the contract.

At the other table declarer was blessed with the knowledge that the opening lead signalled either two higher honors or none. Since it could not be two, it had to be none, marking East with the ace of diamonds. Therefore, declarer followed low from dummy to the first trick and the jack won. West continued with the ten to the queen and East's ace, but East had no diamond to return. Declarer won the spade shift in hand and forced out the ace of clubs. That gave him a total of 10 tricks—four clubs, two spades, three hearts and a diamond—and a gain of 730 points.



YOUR STARS

<p>Aries March 21 - April 20</p> <p>If you continue eating out of habit without regard to your figure you will tend to lose it. Do all you can to stay on the best terms with those around you. Do not delay what you know should be done now. Be less impulsive.</p>	<p>Cancer June 21 - July 20</p> <p>You are likely to make good progress but do not rush your feet. And you are liable to confuse something essential with something that is not. A person you thought was a good friend may well turn out not to be. Be considerate.</p>	<p>Libra Sept. 23 - Oct. 22</p> <p>Nothing will proceed quite as smoothly as you would like. However, a little more determination will enable you to deal with the obstacles. You are more prone to infection and should take better care of yourself. Be thankful.</p>	<p>Capricorn Dec. 21 - Jan. 19</p> <p>There is nothing to be gained by dwelling on the past and wishing it had been different. You should welcome rather than resisting change. And do your best to keep up to date with new developments. Be alert.</p>
<p>Taurus April 21 - May 20</p> <p>Make sure you do not leave any bills unpaid and do not get into debt. You are far too liable to take things for granted, desist. Avoid becoming involved in what does not concern you. Be generous.</p>	<p>Leo July 21 - Aug. 21</p> <p>You will feel more at ease with yourself and consequently with others. However you must beware of losing your temper. Do not permit yourself to be distracted. Be more tolerant.</p>	<p>Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21</p> <p>Something you have learnt recently will help you to succeed in a way you did not think possible. You should make sure you have not got your dates mixed up. Try to find time to read: do not watch too much television. Be fair.</p>	<p>Aquarius Jan. 20 - Feb. 19</p> <p>You do not have as much time as you think you have so try to get a move on. Take even greater care than usual when on the road either walking or driving. Do not trust too much to luck even though you are likely to have some. Be reasonable.</p>
<p>Gemini May 21 - June 20</p> <p>Do not allow yourself to be tempted into a 'safe' investment that will make you rich. Instead think about it and try to take professional advice. There are hidden risks. Be tactful.</p>	<p>Virgo Aug. 22 - Sept. 22</p> <p>You should not concern yourself with secondary matters just now. Your lucky numbers are 23 and 37. A hobby should not be taken too seriously. If you think it is too late to learn, you are getting old whatever age you are! Be prompt.</p>	<p>Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21</p> <p>You should not take everything quite so seriously, there is a lot to be said for a good laugh. You should have a little more faith in yourself and avoid excessive pessimism. Nor should you be too suspicious or envious. Be contented.</p>	<p>Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20</p> <p>Something you thought unlikely to happen will. Something you did some time ago will now take effect. What you cannot achieve by persuasion you should not try to use force to effect. Be reliable.</p>



Weather wrecks India-Otago match

DUNEDIN, New Zealand, Jan 29 (AP): Rain washed out all but 13 minutes of play today, third day of the cricket match between India and New Zealand provincial team Otago at Carisbrook.

Otago made 426 in its first innings, boosted by 226 not out by Ken Rutherford. The tourists were 274 for three in response at

stumps yesterday and lost a wicket for the addition of only three runs before play was finally abandoned for the day.

India lost Gursaran Singh, bowled by Russell Mathew without adding to his score of 115.

He had batted 286 minutes, faced 235 balls and struck four

boundaries in his tradesmanlike innings.

The visitors were, however, optimistic of an exciting finish. Indian manager Bishan Singh Bedi said there still might be an exciting game. He hoped that his side would declare behind Otago's total and later be set a target.

Scoreboard

OTAGO first innings 426 for five (K. Rutherford 226 not out, Hirwani 107 for 97)

INDIA first innings (overnight 274 for three)

V. Chandrasekhar b Hunter..... 3
W. Raman c Robinson b Hunter..... 123
G. Singh b Mathew..... 115
M. Azharuddin c sub b Lindsay..... 17
S. Tendulkar not out..... 4

A. Sharma, not out..... 2
Extras (nb-13)..... 13
Total (for four wickets)..... 277
Fall of wickets: 1-17 2-223 3-299 4-274

To bat: Kapil Dev, V. Raju, M. Venkataramana, A. Wassen, N. Hirwani.

Bowling to date: Hills 14-1-58-0 (4nb), Hunter 15-1-88-2 (4nb), Johnson 22-3-74-0 (4nb), Mathew 9-3-10-1 (1nb), Lindsay 15-1-69-1.

Becker to rest from Davis Cup

BONN, Jan 29, (Reuters): Boris Becker, who inspired West Germany's victory over Sweden in the Davis Cup final last month, will not take part in his country's defence of the Cup this year.

World number two Becker told team coach Nikkili Pilic about his decision on the telephone from his home in Monte Carlo, Pilic said yesterday.

The Yugoslavia-born coach wrote about the phone call in a column for the Hamburger Morgenpost, which released the article ahead of publication today.

Becker, back home after losing in straight sets to Sweden's Mats Wilander in the quarterfinals of the Australian open in Melbourne, said he was tired and wanted to concentrate on Grand Prix tournaments rather than play in the Davis Cup.

"I don't want to play any more Davis Cup this year. I am tired, worn out. I lack motivation. I need to rest for a year," Pilic quoted Becker as saying.

Becker has not missed a tie since he made his Davis Cup debut in 1985, winning 27 of 29 singles matches.

He played in three Davis Cup finals — all of them against Sweden. West Germany lost in 1985 despite two victories by Becker and beat the Swedes in both 1988 and 1989.

The West German Tennis Association confirmed that the holders would be without Becker when they begin the defence of their crown in a world group, first round match against the Netherlands in Bremen from February 2 to 4.

Pilic said Becker's decision to opt out of the Davis Cup was a severe blow to the West German team.

"But I respect his opinion and understand it. He has done much for Germany," Pilic wrote.

"For five years he has sacrificed time and energy. For five years he put his talent at our disposal. Now Boris thinks about himself — and that is okay."

Berger to replace Krickstein

CARLSBAD, California, Jan 29, (AP): Jay Berger will replace injured Aaron Krickstein for the US Davis Cup team's zonal match next weekend against Mexico, a US tennis official has announced.

Krickstein, ranked seventh in the world, was forced to withdraw because of a groin pull suffered last week in the Australian Open, said US Tennis Association spokesman Ed Fabricius yesterday.

Berger, ranked ninth after winning the 1989 US clay court championships, won a 1988 singles match against Peru in his only previous Davis Cup appearance.

He joins Brad Gilbert, an earlier replacement for Michael Chang, who had to bow out of the competition because of a hip injury. Jim Pugh and Rick Leach will play doubles for the US team.

Krickstein, a right-hander, is ranked in the top 10 for the second time in his career. Once known as a backcourt player with a big forehand, he has battled through numerous injuries and become more of an all-court player.

Last year was his best ever, reaching the fourth round at Wimbledon, the US Open semifinals and qualifying for the season-ending Masters tournament in New York City.

Mexico's team is comprised of captain Tony Palafox, Jorge Lozano, Leonardo Lavalle, and Agustin Moreno.

Boxer dies

SYRACUSE, New York, Jan 29, (AP): Johnny Gross, a boxer who landed into a coma an hour after winning a super middleweight bout last May, has died at a hospital in Syracuse. He was 24.

Gross died yesterday morning at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Centre where he lay comatose since a May 1 boxing match in Phoenix, New York, just north of Syracuse.

Gross' mother, Madeline, said in an interview last night her son never regained consciousness after he collapsed in his dressing room.

The family celebrated Gross' 24th birthday Oct 11 at his bedside.

Victoria beat Pakistan

McIntyre takes five for 53



Saeed Anwar scored 44

MELBOURNE, Jan 29, (Reuters): Pakistan suffered a demoralising 59-run defeat by state side Victoria today less than a week before the third Test against Australia and are still without a win after seven matches.

Chasing 254 for victory and resuming at 23 for two on the final day of their four-day match, Pakistan were bowled out for 194.

Leg-spinner Peter McIntyre, in his first full season of first class cricket, inflicted most of the damage with five for 53 as the touring side lost their last six wickets for 74 runs.

Pakistan, who have lost five matches and managed draws against Queensland and Australia in the second Test, are concerned about the lack of runs from some of their Test batsmen.

Aamir Malik, Shoaib Mohammad, Rameez Raja and Ijaz Ahmed failed to muster 50 runs between them. The top scorer for Pakistan was Saeed Anwar with 44 runs.

Opener Rameez, who was moved down the order in an attempt to find runs before the final Test of the series which Australia lead 1-0, was out for nine and has still not reached double figures on tour.

Team manager Intikhab Alam said Rameez and fellow opener Shoaib, equally out of form, were a major cause for concern ahead of the Sydney Test which starts on Saturday.

"The openers have been a problem but I am sure Shoaib and Rameez will come good," said Intikhab.

He added that Pakistan, without captain

Imran Khan, batsmen Javed Miandad and Salim Malik and all-rounder Wasim Akram against Victoria, would field their best side for Wednesday's one-day match against the Prime Minister's XI in Canberra.

Scoreboard

VICTORIA first innings 313 (G. Watts 102, S. O'Donnell 89)

PAKISTAN first innings 233

VICTORIA second innings 173 (G. Watts 70, Tauseef Ahmed five for 42)

PAKISTAN second innings (overnight 23 for two)

Aamir Malik c sub (Frazer) b Reiffel..... 8
Shoaib Mohammad lbw b Fleming..... 7
Tauseef Ahmed b McIntyre..... 5
Rameez Raja c O'Donnell b Reiffel..... 22
Ijaz Ahmed c Reiffel b McIntyre..... 24
Saeed Anwar c Prescott b O'Donnell..... 44
Saleem Yousuf c b McIntyre..... 11
Mushtaq Ahmed c Dodeaide..... 15
b McIntyre..... 14
Waqar Younis c Ayres b McIntyre..... 14
Nadeem Ghauri c O'Donnell..... 19
b Dodeaide..... 9
Aaqib Javed not out..... 12
Extras (lb-4 nb-8)..... 12
Total..... 194
Fall of wickets: 1-122 2-163 3-31 4-68 5-1206-133
7-136 8-151 9-174
Bowling: Reiffel 18-4-79-2 (8nb), Fleming 7-3-21-1, McIntyre 22-7-53-5, O'Donnell 10-2-33-1, Dodeaide 15-1-4-1.
Result: Victoria won by 59 runs

Lendl, Graf have few worries

Australian Open points way ahead

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 29, (Reuters): At first glance the Australian Open which finished yesterday might not appear a notable milestone in tennis history.

Ivan Lendl and Steffi Graf retained the titles they won last year, several players were injured and the weather blew hot and cold.

But as the dust settles on the first Grand Slam tournament of the 1990s, it may just prove to have considerable long-term significance for several of the game's big names.

Lendl, and to a lesser extent Graf, have few worries. The super-fit Lendl will be 30 in March but is playing as well as ever and has his obsession about winning Wimbledon to occupy him.

Graf, who won her third successive Australian Open title despite seldom moving out of first gear, can concentrate on rediscovering her game, confident that her rule at the top will continue for some time to come.

Elsewhere, though, not everyone is as full of life's joys. Back in the United States, it required little imagination to guess what John McEnroe and Martina Navratilova were thinking about Lendl and Graf's successes.

McEnroe's tournament, which started so well, turned to disaster in one moment of familiar self-destruction.

Whether he would have gone on to win the title had he decided to keep his feelings about men's Tour supervisor Ken Farrar to himself and not been defaulted during his fourth round match against Sweden's Mikael Pernfors is debatable.

But the volatile New Yorker, in a calmer moment, felt that he stood his best chance for several years to win another Grand Slam tournament and knows that time is no longer on his side.

If he decides not to come back to Australia, his Grand Slam ambitions would seem to be limited to one tournament — Wimbledon where younger men like Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg are now as formidable as McEnroe himself once was.

The future is also looking increasingly hazy for Navratilova, the world number two who decided to miss the Australian Open this year.

Sitting at home watching Graf, she will know better than anyone that she will rarely have had a better chance to beat the 20-year-old West German who has usurped her position at the top of women's tennis.

With the unfortunate Gabriela Sabatini struck down

by a sprained ankle and Arantxa Sanchez at home in Spain, Navratilova would have been the champion's only realistic challenger.

Anyone familiar with Graf knows she is unlikely to be so vulnerable next time.

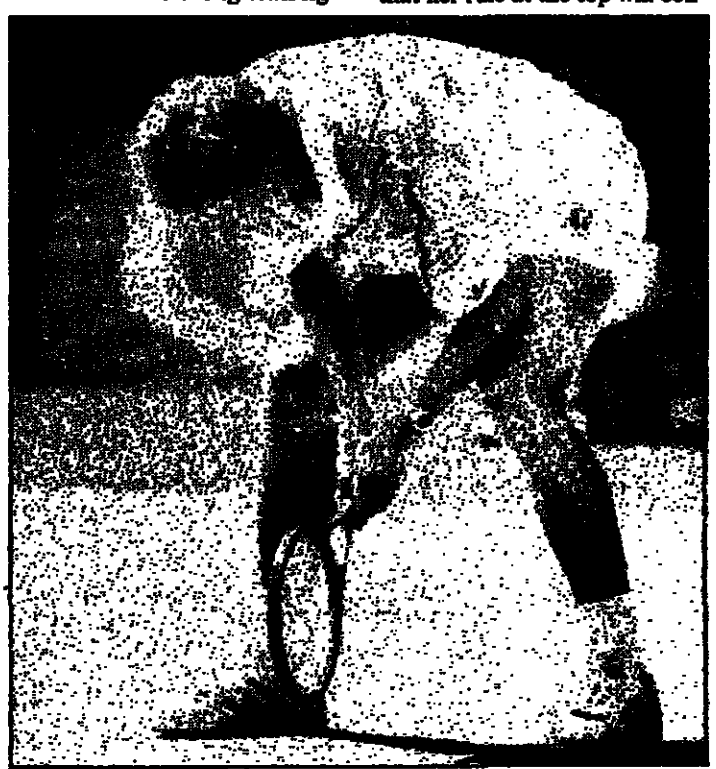
Becker, too, will be in thoughtful mood. His much-publicised claims to Lendl's number one spot have embarrassingly blown up in his face and, like Swede Mats Wilander before him, he is finding it difficult to regenerate his enthusiasm after touching rare heights in the Davis Cup final last month.

He looked world-weary, jaded and less than fully fit during the championships and a West German newspaper quoted his Davis Cup coach Nikkili Pilic yesterday as saying Becker would not take part in his country's defence of the Cup this year.

In contrast, Wilander, Frenchman Yannick Noah and, despite his injury in yesterday's final, Edberg all have reasons to be cheerful after performances of considerable brilliance in Melbourne.

Australia's Pat Cash, on the road to recovery after a nine month absence with an Achilles tendon injury, is also in the mood to break back into the elite alongside Austria's Thomas Muster, another long-term injury absentee in 1989.

Lower down the scale, West German teenager Anke Huber and Australia's Rachel McQuillan are ones to watch among the women while the entertaining Veli Paloheimo should continue to put Finnish tennis on the map.



Eoberg bends over in pain due to a stomach muscle injury during the Australian Open final. (Reuters wirephoto)

Arun beats Vipin for men's table tennis title

THE IAC recently concluded the Mitsubishi-IAC table tennis tournaments for seniors at the IAC badminton courts in Funaites.

There was a better than expected turnout for both the men's and ladies events with some new talents showing their mettle in the tournament.

The games started off at 9.00 am with the men's singles with all those who had arrived keen to get in a game as soon as possible and also watching each others games so as to choose partners for the men's doubles.

It was clear very quickly that Arun Nair was the strongest contender in the field but he would have his work cut out by George George, Dr. Kamik and Vipin Verma.

Infact, according to Arun and others who had witnessed the game, George George gave him the hardest time and was one of the most exciting matches of the day. It was unfortunate that George was drawn to play Arun in the second round, for had he been seeded in the opposite half, he would have reached the semi-finals at least if not the finals. Arun otherwise had an easy time. He beat Vipin Verma to take the men's singles title.

The ladies singles got off to a good start also with 3 favourites emerging very quickly — Mrs Viji Kutty, Mrs Darley Satish and Mrs Crystal Pais.

The men's doubles, ladies doubles and mixed doubles were also very exciting matches although it seems that most had joined the tournament more for fun and brushing up on their games than in really going in there to win.

All the finals, including the



Mrs Viji Kutty (right) and Mrs Satish

junior boys singles and doubles were held on the same day, with the two junior partners — Rahul Kapoor and Zahid Rahman — competing against each other for the juniors singles title.

Mr Ivan Pacheco, Mr Jacob Mathew and Mr Sunil Vajpai from the Maseelah Trading Co. and the IAC President Mathew were there to witness all the finals.



The winners with other officials

The organisers thanked the sponsor for support given for the tournament and invited Ivan Pacheco to present the trophies and the gifts to the winners and the runners up. Pacheco congratulated the winners and wished all the participants better luck in the future games.

The results were as follows: Mens singles winner: Arun Nair; Mens singles runner up: Vipin

Verma; Juniors singles winner: Rahul Kapoor; Juniors singles runners up: Zahid Rahman; Ladies singles winner: Mrs Pais; Ladies singles runner up: Mrs Viji Kutty; Girls singles winner: Wafia Easa Koya; Girls singles runner up: Lulu Sherif; Mens doubles winner: Arun Nair & Kulbir Sethi; Mens doubles runner up: Vipin Verma & Flavian D'Mello; Juniors doubles winners: Kapoor & Rahman; Jun-

iors doubles runners up: Usman Ahmed & Karthik; Ladies doubles winners: Mrs Kutty & Mrs Satish; Ladies doubles runners up: Mrs Pais & Roshan Roy; Girls doubles winners: Lulu Sherif & Seema Mohammed; Girls doubles runners up: Rizwana Kadre & Roshan Roy; Mixed doubles winners: Arun Nair & Pooja Vadi; Mixed doubles runners up: Vipin Verma & Mrs Roy.



Gattling reads a local newspaper on Sunday, a day after some 1,000 blacks demonstrated outside cricket ground. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gattling comes under fire

KIMBERLEY, South Africa, Jan 29, (Reuters): Rebel England captain Mike Gattling angered anti-apartheid protesters yesterday by dismissing their objections to his own team's boycott-busting South African cricket tour as "singing and dancing."

"A few people were singing and dancing, nothing more than that," Gattling told reporters after the opening three-day match of his rebel eleven's seven-week tour.

Krish Naidoo, leader of South Africa's anti-apartheid National Sports Congress (NSC), condemned Gattling's attitude as "insensitive and provocative."

Gattling's team has faced protests almost every day since it arrived 10 days ago to an airport demonstration that ended in a police baton charge.

At least 30 people were arrested and dozens of cars and shop windows were smashed in violent confrontations between police and anti-tour demonstrators in Kimberley on Saturday.

Black hotel and restaurant staff have courted dismissal by refusing to serve the touring team.

"I am more concerned with playing cricket than anything else," Gattling said when he was asked about the protests.

Naidoo said Gattling clearly had not understood the depth of feeling among black South Africans against the tour, which defies a worldwide anti-apartheid sports boycott.

"If he stands by his statement it could increase the level of conflict in this country and he must accept full responsibility for the consequences," Naidoo said.

The NSC and other anti-apartheid groups have vowed to disrupt the tour and to harass players at their hotels throughout the country.

Police have promised to tolerate peaceful protests, but have said they will not allow demonstrators to stop play or invade pitches.



Ishfaq, Shahbaz help Prince win

PRINCE maintained his winning streak at the EPI ground in the GCL fixtures and won their third consecutive match and on all three occasions Ishfaq demonstrated his batting skills well supported by his younger brother Shahbaz.

The abbreviated scores were: Prince vs Deccan Blues: Deccan Blues 163 for 8 in 29 overs (Ajaz Ali 44, Shafigue three wickets).

Prince 167 for two in 22 overs (Ishfaq 101 not-out with nine fours, Shahbaz 31, Ajaz Ali two wickets).

Result: Prince won by eight wicket.

Prince vs CCK: CCK 186 for eight in 29 overs (Burhan 57, Faizal 36, Ishfaq, Asad and Shafigue two wickets each).

Prince 188 for one in 26 overs (Ishfaq 104 not-out, Shahbaz 61 n.o.).

Result: Prince won by nine wickets.

Prince vs Falcon: 128 Falcon innings closed (G. Haider 53, Khalid 34, Aslam two wickets).

Prince 129 for four in 21 overs (Shahbaz 55 not-out, Ishfaq 43, Zahid Jr two wickets).

Result: Prince won by six wickets.

Boston outplay Phoenix

BOSTON, Jan 29, (AP): Kevin McHale, hitting just the second 3-point field goal of his career, ignited a 16-2 run at the end of the first period and the Boston Celtics went on to beat the Phoenix Suns 126-118 yesterday.

Larry Bird scored 22 points, McHale 21, Robert Parish 17 and Reggie Lewis 16 as the Celtics handed Phoenix a second consecutive loss after the Suns set a club record with a 10-game winning streak.

The Suns led 35-27 when McHale, a 10-year veteran, surprised them by hitting his 3-pointer from 23 feet (7 metres). McHale added two more baskets as the Celtics charged to a 43-37 lead in the early minutes of the second period.

Boston widened the margin to 10 points, let Phoenix close with two, then settled for a 63-59 led at halftime.

Getting plenty of help from the bench, the Celtics stretched the lead to as much as 11 points in the third period, then played tough defense in holding off Phoenix challenges the rest of the way.

The Sun's Tom Chambers led all scorers with 40 points. Kevin Johnson added 28 and Jeff Hornacek 18.

Standings

Standings of National Basketball Association teams after games played yesterday. (Tableau under won, lost winning percentage, games behind):

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	27	15	.643	—
Philadelphia	26	16	.619	1
Boston	25	16	.610	1-1/2
Washington	15	28	.349	12-1/2
New Jersey	12	28	.303	14-1/2
Miami	9	35	.205	19
Central Division				
Detroit	29	14	.674	—
Chicago	27	15	.643	1-1/2
Memphis	24	19	.558	5
Indiana	23	19	.548	5-1/2
Atlanta	21	18	.538	6
Cleveland	18	25	.419	10
L.A. Clippers	12	30	.286	16-1/2
Oakland	8	32	.200	21
Western Conference				
Midwest Division				
Utah	29	11	.725	—
San Antonio	27	13	.675	2
Denver	23	19	.548	7
Dallas	22	20	.524	8
Houston	20	22	.476	10
Charlotte	8	32	.200	21
Minnesota	7	33	.175	22
Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	31	9	.775	—
Portland	30	11	.732	1-1/2
Phoenix	24	16	.600	7
Seattle	19	21	.475	12
Golden State	19	22	.463	12-1/2
L.A. Clippers	12	28	.303	18-1/2
Sacramento	12	28	.300	19

Olympic bid

WEST BERLIN, Jan 29, (Reuters): West German cities yesterday formally agreed to shake their Olympic candidacies for 2000 or 2004 in favour of East and West Berlin's bid to host the games.

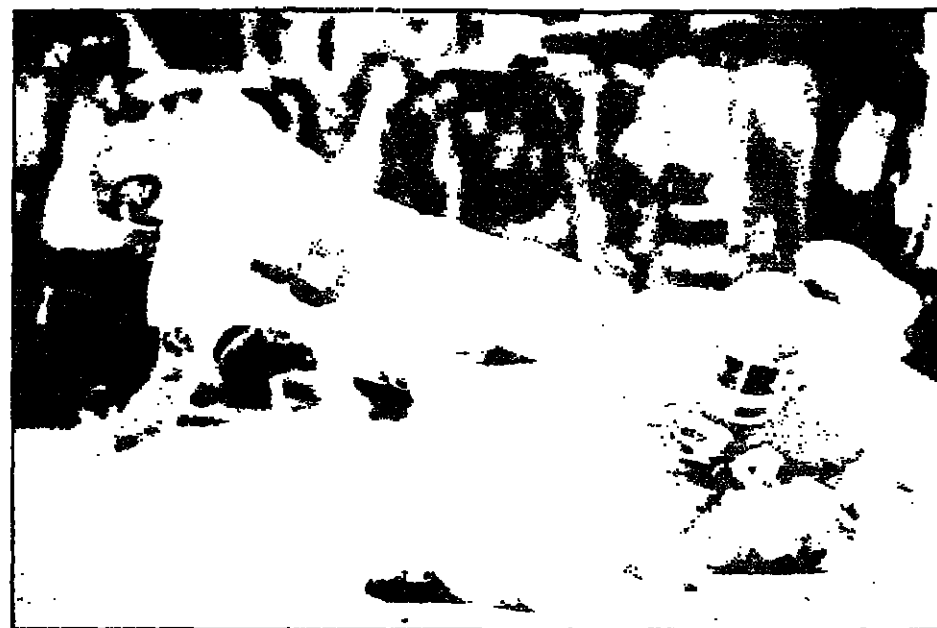
The announcement was made after a meeting of West Germany's National Olympic Committee (NOK) and delegations from West Berlin, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Stuttgart and the Ruhr area.



Denver quarterback Elway sits on his 24-yard line after being sacked by 49ers.



San Francisco cornerback Darryl Pollard celebrates his team's victory at the end of the game.



Brent Jones dives across the Denver goal-line for 49ers' second touchdown of the match.

49ers romp to Super Bowl victory

Montana & Co. make it look easy

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 29, (Reuters) The San Francisco 49ers, the undisputed 'team of the '80s', made a strong case for being called the greatest of all time after their romp to victory yesterday in the 24th Super Bowl.

A year after winning their third title with a thrilling last-minute touchdown, the 49ers crushed the Denver Broncos 55-10 in the most one-sided game in Super Bowl history.

Only the Pittsburgh Steelers also won four Super Bowls but none as impressively as yesterday's destruction of the Broncos, who equalled the 0-4 record for Super Bowl futility set by the Minnesota Vikings.

Those Steelers had a devastating defence, but the explosive offence of the 49ers is unrivalled in National Football League history.

"I think they are playing as well as anybody ever has," said Dan Reeves after his third Super Bowl defeat as Denver head coach. "They are playing at a level that's incredible."

The 49ers became the fourth team to repeat as Super Bowl champions and the first in 10 years. The Green Bay Packers won the first two and since then the Miami Dolphins won in 1973 and 1974 and the Steelers did it twice in the late 1970s.

As George Seifert, who took over as head coach when Bill Walsh retired last year, entered the jubilant 49er lockerroom, his players were chanting "three-peat, three-peat" looking ahead to next year's drive for a third straight championship.

"I'm so happy for them that they were able to achieve this goal," said Seifert, only the second head coach to win a Super Bowl in his first season. "If they want to go for another one that's fine with me."

Joe Montana, named the game's Most Valuable Player for a record third time, furthered his admirers' claims that he is the best quarterback of all time.

Montana set a batch of Super Bowl records yesterday, overtaking stars such as Terry Bradshaw and Roger Staubach.

"He is probably the greatest quarterback of all time. We all have an inner strength because of his strength," Seifert said.

Joe's getting better every year. He's like a kid out there, added running back Roger Craig. "I'm going to keep playing as long as Joe's playing."

The tough talking Denver defence was thoroughly



Broncos' Elway (left) shows his disappointment while Montana celebrates his victory. (Reuters wirephoto)



Joe Montana (left) in action and later kissing his son after victory. (Reuters wirephoto)



embarrassed as Montana made it look easy, connecting on 22 of 29 passes for 297 yards, five touchdowns and no interceptions.

The 49ers set the tone on their first possession of the game when Montana moved his team 66 yards in 10 plays ending with a 20-yard touchdown reception by last year's Super Bowl MVP, Jerry Rice, his first of three touchdown catches.



Denver countered with a 42-yard field goal by David Treadwell to make it 7-3, but that was as close as it got.

Denver's hopes of keeping Montana off the field failed miserably. The 49ers ball control offence worked to perfection as they had possession for nearly twice as long as Denver — 39 minutes 31 seconds to 20:29.

"They made no mistakes in the



ballgame and that makes it tough for anyone to beat," said Reeves. San Francisco capitalised on Denver's mistakes, turning two fumbles and two interceptions into touchdowns.

San Francisco went ahead 13-3 when Montana capped a 54-yard drive with a seven-yard touchdown pass to tight end Brent Jones and engineered a masterful 14-play drive that used up more



John Elway throws a pass that falls incomplete. (Reuters wirephoto)

than seven minutes and ended with a one-yard plunge by full-back Tom Rathman in the second quarter to make it 20-3.

Montana connected with Rice on a 37-yard touchdown as the first half came to a close and San Francisco held a commanding 27-3 lead at the half.

Things only got worse for Denver quarterback John Elway after the half. He threw two inter-

ceptions that Montana immediately turned into two more touchdown passes — one to Rice and one to John Taylor.

Elway, superb in the Conference championship two weeks ago, had his third miserable Super Bowl. Elway completed just 10 of 26 passes for 108 yards. He ran three yards for Denver's lone touchdown but that came with the 49ers leading 41-3.

Fortunately for Elway, 29, he'll probably still be playing after 33-year-old Montana retires and at least his boss did not blame him for Denver's crushing defeat.

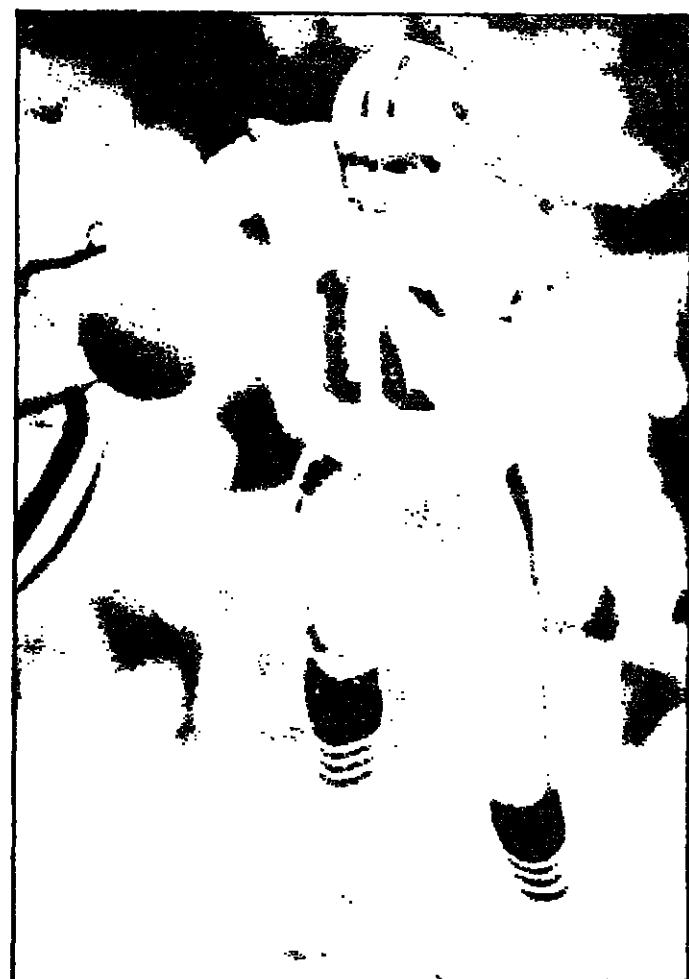
Bowls. We've been manhandled everytime," Elway said.

San Francisco linebacker Matt Millen, one of the primary manhandlers, said: "I have a lot of respect for Elway and I felt bad for him."

Super Bowl Most Valuable Player Joe Montana, who is fast running out of fingers for championship rings, was also sympathetic.

"John's a great guy. If we weren't in it I'd have wished he'd won."

With his thunderous pushing and slapping techniques, Konishiki's progress was so fast he



The hero of the match, Montana, scrambles for yardage during first quarter. (Reuters wirephoto)

Montana rewrites record book

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 29, (Reuters) Besides orchestrating San Francisco's 55-10 destruction of the Denver Broncos yesterday 49er quarterback Joe Montana rewrites the Super Bowl record book.

Here are some of the highlights: Most touchdown passes, career, 11 (previously 9 by Terry Bradshaw) Most touchdown passes in one game, 5 (previously 4 by Bradshaw and Doug Williams)

Most passes attempted career, 122 (previously 98 by Roger Staubach)

Most passes completed career, 83 (previously 61 by Staubach)

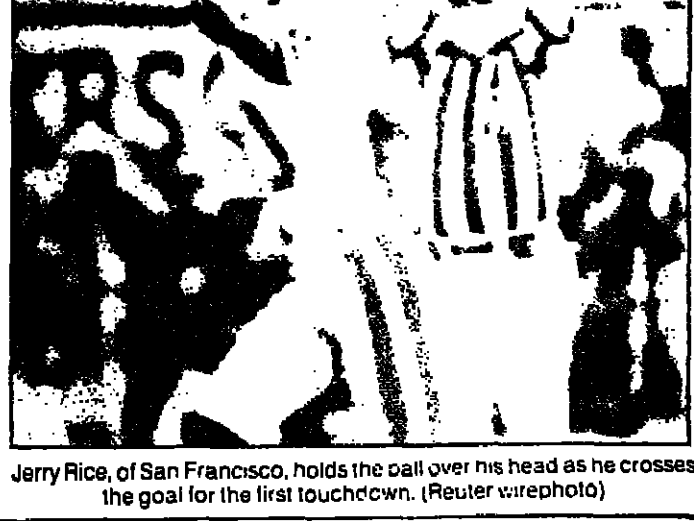
Highest completion percentage career, 68 per cent (extending his own record of 65.6)

Most yards passing career, 1,142 (previously 932 by Bradshaw)

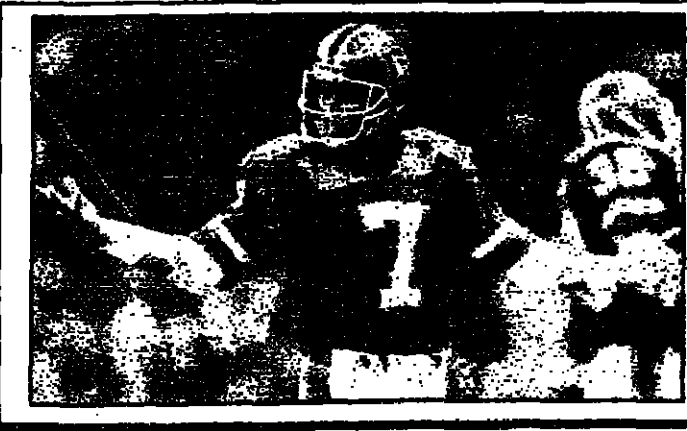
Most attempts without an interception career, 122 (extended his own record)

Most consecutive passes completed in a game, 13 (previously 10 by Phil Simms)

Most times named Super Bowl Most Valuable Player — three, previously two by Bart Starr, Bradshaw and Montana)



Jerry Rice, of San Francisco, holds the ball over his head as he crosses the goal for the first touchdown. (Reuters wirephoto)



Elway can't seem to win the big one

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 29, (Reuters) With the 55-10 Super Bowl blowout of the Denver Broncos by the San Francisco 49ers yesterday John Elway is facing the label of a quarterback who can't win the big one.

Greatness has been expected of Elway since his outstanding college days at Stanford, but he always seems to fall short.

He has led the Broncos to three Super Bowl berths in the last four years only to perform badly and lose by a wider margin each time. In 1987 Denver lost to the New York Giants 39-20, in 1988 they fell to the Washington Redskins 42-10 and yesterday's was the most one-sided loss in

Super Bowl history.

"I'm just trying to figure out how we can win one of these one of these days or at least be in one," said a frustrated Elway who yesterday completed just 10 of 26 passes with no touchdowns

passes and two interceptions. Denver's record-equaling fourth Super Bowl defeat invited obvious comparison between Elway and Fran Tarkenton.

Undeniably one of the great quarterbacks in National Football League history, Tarkenton nevertheless failed to win a championship in three Super Bowl attempts.

"At least Fran was in a couple of those Super

Bowls. We've been manhandled everytime," Elway said.

San Francisco linebacker Matt Millen, one of the primary manhandlers, said: "I have a lot of respect for Elway and I felt bad for him."

Super Bowl Most Valuable Player Joe Montana, who is fast running out of fingers for championship rings, was also sympathetic.

"John's a great guy. If we weren't in it I'd have wished he'd won."

Fortunately for Elway, 29, he'll probably still be playing after 33-year-old Montana retires and at least his boss did not blame him for Denver's crushing defeat.

With his thunderous pushing and slapping techniques, Konishiki's progress was so fast he

Konishiki: first foreigner in reach of sumo wrestling title

TOKYO, Jan. 29, (Reuters) Sumo wrestler Konishiki, a massive Samoan-American from Hawaii who towers over his Japanese opponents, is the first foreigner to come within reach of the top title in Japan's national sport.

His victory in the Kyushu Grand Sumo Tournament last November, only the second such win by a foreign wrestler, took Konishiki a long way towards becoming the first foreign "Yokozuna" (grand champion).

President George Bush sent congratulations.

"I really would like to become

"Yokozuna" as soon as possible," the 1.8 metre (six feet two inches), 233 kg (514 pounds) Konishiki said in an interview, speaking in fluent Japanese.

"As Yokozuna you can do whatever you like. And I want to get married," the 26-year-old wrestler said, relaxing in a blue kimono-style training suit after his morning five-hour training session.

He would neither deny nor confirm media reports that prospective bride is a Japanese fashion model in the northern island of Hokkaido.

Konishiki said he had to con-

centrate first on winning the title. Sumo rules call for a wrestler to win two tournaments in succession or record a comparable achievement to earn the rank of grand champion.

Konishiki's quest received a setback earlier this month when he failed to win Tokyo's New Year Tournament with a score of 10 wins and five losses.

The event was won by grand champion Chiyonofuji with 14 wins and one loss. However, the huge Hawaiian beat Chiyonofuji preventing him from scoring his eighth all-win tournament.

The next tournament is in

Osaka in March and Konishiki will try again.

Of his failure at the Tokyo tournament, he said: "I am a little bit disappointed. During the last tournament, people (other sumo wrestlers) expected me not to be in good shape. But this time, it was different and they approached me more carefully."

In sumo, two huge wrestlers wearing only traditional loincloths employ a variety of holds or simple brute strength to force opponents onto or out of a sand ring. It became a professional sport in the 17th century.

Professional sumo is a gruelling career choice, even for young Japanese aspirants.

"I decided to come to Japan as I had never been outside of the United States, and I wanted to have good time," said Konishiki about the beginning of his career.

"But I realised what a damn silly thing I did as soon as I arrived."

Born in 1963 as Salevaa Atisano, Konishiki was spotted by the first foreign sumo hero and fellow Hawaiian Jesse Takamiyama, when he was an 18-year old American high school football player in Hawaii.

Like other novices, he started his sumo career by cleaning bathrooms at his training stable. The beginners live and eat together and act as unpaid servants to the senior wrestlers.

"The sumo world is a difficult place to live," he said. "And it turned out wrong to think that would change you are no longer at the bottom."

"Now I am 'Ozeki' (champion). Yet it is not easier. There is so much psychological pressure."

With his thunderous pushing and slapping techniques, Konishiki's progress was so fast he

was feared and sometimes hated by his Japanese rivals.

Within two years he was one of the best of the 600 professional wrestlers in Japan. Then a knee injury upset his form.

The sumo wrestler's stew — in which vegetables, fish and meat are cooked together with soy sauce — increased his weight to 255 kg (562 pounds) last year, and the weight proved too much for his knee.

"It really was difficult when I was often losing," he said. "I felt I was fighting a lonely battle when I won one round only to lose another."

His fortune turned again last year after he overcame his injuries.

"I swam a lot and did much weight training. My weight at one point became less than 220 kg (485 pounds)," said Konishiki. "I have to be very careful with eating."

Despite his intimidating appearance, Konishiki is known for his gentleness. He has been generous to his parents in Hawaii since he started to earn money and has built them a house.

Konishiki earns a monthly salary of 900,000 yen (\$6,200).

SPORTS BRIEF

Sports daily

NEW YORK, Jan 29, (Reuters): The first nationwide daily newspaper for American sports fans will be launched on Wednesday. Mexican media magnate Emilio Azcarraga is betting \$100 million that there are at least one million Americans who still feel so hungry for sports news after reading their local newspapers that they will pay 50 cents for a copy of "The National."

Egypt win

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, Jan 29, (AP): Egypt defeated the United Arab Emirates 2-1 in an exhibition soccer match yesterday that was part of the warm up games for the World Cup finals.

Soccer fans

WARSAW, Jan 29, (Reuters): About 1,000 soccer fans went on the rampage after a match in the Polish city of Krakow yesterday, smashing windows in the Soviet consulate and communist party headquarters and damaging cars, shops and apartments.

Romanians lose

MARSEILLE, France, Jan 29, (Reuters): The Romanian national soccer team, playing its first match since last month's revolution, lost 2-1 to French champions Marseille in a friendly yesterday.

Platt injured

LONDON, Jan 29, (Reuters): Championship-chasing Aston Villa fear striker David Platt, the leading scorer in English soccer's First Division with 19 goals, may be out of action for two months with a broken leg.

Korean talks

PANMUNJOM, Korea, Jan 29, (UPI): South and North Korean sports officials met once again today but failed to reach a final accord on sending a unified Korean team to the 1990 Asian Games to be held in China.

Hoeffleher wins

VAL D'ISERE, France, Jan 29, (AP): Austrian Helmut Hoeffleher powered to his second World Cup downhill victory in three days today by holding off Swiss skier William Besse by 34 seconds.

Locher triumphs

VAL D'ISERE, France, Jan 29, (AP): Swiss skier Steve Locher edged Frenchman Armand Schiele by 63 seconds to win a World Cup Super-G today.

WBO fight

LONDON, Jan 29, (AP): Nigel Benn of Britain will fight Doug Dewitt of the United States for the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) middleweight championship, it was announced today.

Blanco recalled

PARIS, Jan 29, (Reuters): Veteran full-back Serge Blanco and fly-half Franck Mesnel have been recalled by France to face England in their Five Nations Rugby Union match on Saturday.

Molina wins

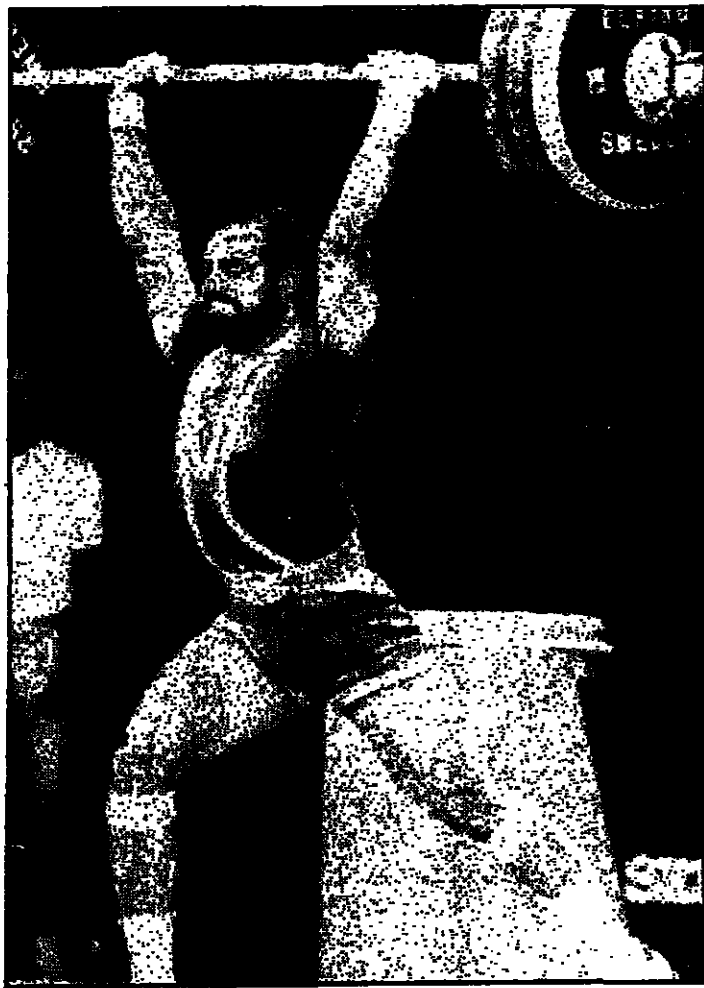
ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey, Jan 29, (AP): John Molina retained his International Boxing Federation junior lightweight title by flooring Lupe Suarez twice and stopping him in the sixth round of a scheduled 12-round bout yesterday.

RESULTS of Hubara Centre Bridge Club game played on Saturday:

- N/S:
1. Dr Omar & Nabil Akel
2. Kuddoura & Matrouk
3. El Baz & Ezzeldin
EW:
1. Salman Ali & George
2. Dr & Mrs Oskay
3. Merchant & Carsten

Steroids give Games bad publicity

Gunnell defeats Flintoff-King



Indian weightlifter Subrat Kumar Paul in action during his bronze medal performance. (Reuters wirephoto)

at the news.

Gunnell, who won the 100 metres hurdles in Edinburgh, was always in front but surged away from the final barrier to win in 55.38 seconds. Flintoff-

King of Australia, who is now expected to retire to have a baby, clocked 56.00.

Another member of the English team, Kriss Akabusi, won the men's event in 48.89 ahead of

Kenya's Gideon Yego while England's Myrtle Aunge headed compatriot Judith Oakes to win the women's shot.

Dual Olympic champion Sebastian Coe struggled to qualify for the 800 metres final, finishing fourth in a semifinal which saw the end of veteran New Zealander John Walker's hopes in the top-lap event.

Tewkesbury shook off a bout of influenza to claim victory with the second fastest time over the past 12 months, 56.07 seconds. Anthony Mosse also repeated his Edinburgh feat by winning the 200 metres butterfly to give the New Zealand crowd the gold medal it so desperately desired.

Australia took their haul of swimming gold medals to 18, equalling their best ever total, by winning the women's 4x100 metres medley, a victory that allowed Lisa Curry to repeat her three-gold tally at the 1982 Games.

Sprint specialist Andrew Baldon won his fourth title in the 50 metres freestyle but Hayley Lewis was thwarted in her attempt to win five golds, finishing with a more bronze behind Canada's Nancy Sweetnam in the 200 metres individual medley.

Australia led the medals table with 33 golds ahead of Canada with 24 and England 20. Jersey grabbed their first ever Games gold when Colin Mallett won the individual smallbore rifle.

Weightlifting does not deserve to be expelled from the Olympic and Commonwealth Games despite the latest drugs controversy surrounding the sport, one of weightlifting's top officials said today.

"I hope weightlifting will not be kicked out," said Tamas Ajan.

"In that case you can kick out any sport because all the sports have their own problems," he said.

Questions have been asked about weightlifting's future since five competitors tested positive at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

It was easy to single out any sport for expulsion because the problem of drugs in sport was so widespread, Ajan said. "But why this sport, why not another sport?" he asked.

Weightlifting had strict international random testing worldwide, said Ajan, but he admitted it was still not enough.

"Drugs are the main problem of modern sport. Even though we are making many drug tests, the present procedures are not perfect."

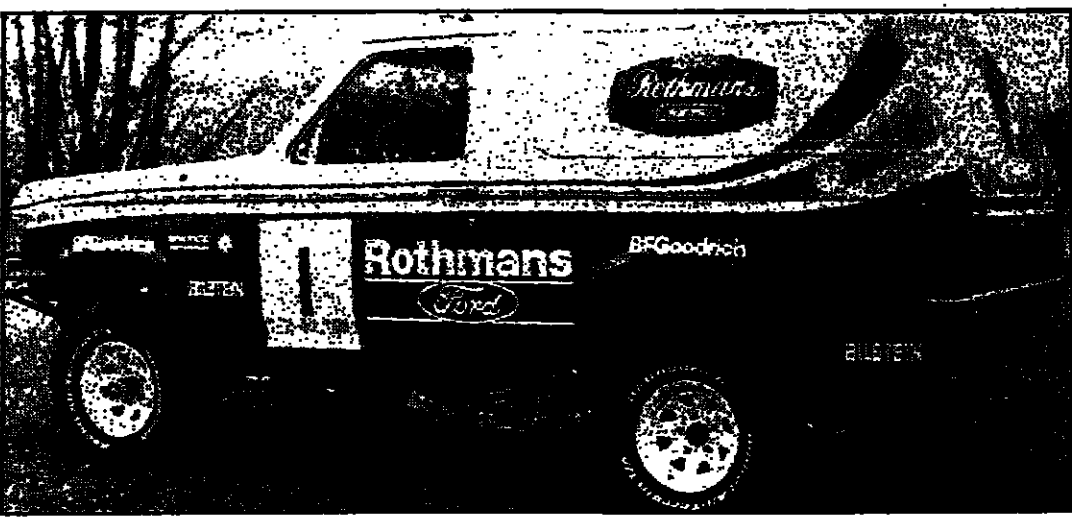
Standings

Medals table after the fifth day of Commonwealth Games competition on Monday (tabulate under gold, silver, bronze):

Australia	33	30	33
Canada	25	19	18
England	20	20	22
India	11	10	8
Wales	8	4	4
New Zealand	5	6	7
Nigeria	1	7	4
Kenya	1	4	1
Scotland	1	3	3
Nauru	1	2	1
Bangladesh	1	1	1
Jamaica	1	1	1
N Ireland	1	1	1
Zimbabwe	1	1	1
Hong Kong	1	1	1
Bahamas	1	1	1

Note — No bronze awarded for solo and duet synchronised swimming and pairs running target shooting. Two golds, no silver awarded for men's gymnastics horizontal bar.

Al Hajri gets new car for BP series



The Rothmans Ford Bronco: Al Hajri's new vehicle

enough power to beat the opposition but we can find plenty more if we have to."

Al Hajri's Rothmans Ford Bronco is fitted with no fewer than 12 Bilstein shock absorbers, and is geared for a top speed of 215 km per hour. The specially developed all-terrain tyres are supplied by BF Goodrich, the leading US performance tyre manufacturers. Prior to being air-freighted to

Dubai, the Bronco was subjected to rigorous testing at Ford Motor Company's test-track at Boreham, England.

Driving the car for the first time, a delighted Al Hajri commented "It's fantastic; it is a big car yet very stable over the bumps. It is also very fast and the four wheel drive and power steering make it extremely easy to handle."

The 'Rothmans Ford Desert Racing Team' programme will be in addition to Saeed Al Hajri's conventional Rally programme in a Ford Sierra Cosworth which will see him compete in selected international rallies both inside and outside the Middle East. 1990 BP 4WD Desert Challenge Programme: Dubai — February 1/2, Oman — March 22/23, Bahrain — May 3/4, Jordan — July 25/27, Kuwait — September 27/28, Qatar — October 11/12.

'Remove blight of violence'

LONDON, Jan 29, (AP): English soccer clubs treat fans like second-class citizens and must provide safer, more comfortable stadiums to remove the "blight" of violence, a report on Europe's worst sports disaster said today.

"Football is our national game. We gave it to the world. But its image in our country has been much tarnished," said appeal court judge Peter Taylor, who led the nine-month probe.

The government said it would do all it could to make sure the report's recommendations were implemented. But soccer officials said the inquiry's main finding — that all 92 league clubs switch to all-seater stadiums by the turn of the century — would cost almost a quarter-billion dollars.

Clubs that failed to meet the deadline could be forced to close.

The findings of the panel concluded an investigation into last April's tragedy at Hillsborough stadium in Sheffield, England.

There, on a warm Saturday afternoon, 95 people were crushed to death as fans surged into a standing-room area already filled to capacity.

Palmer wins \$240,000

KOHALA COAST, Hawaii, Jan 29, (Reuters): Arnold Palmer sank a birdie putt worth \$215,000 to finish as the overall winner of the Senior Skins game yesterday as the 60-year-old golf great outscored Gary Player and senior newcomers Jack Nicklaus and Lee Trevino.

Palmer won a total of \$240,000, the bulk of it coming from his three-foot birdie on the 16th hole. "That's the most money I've ever won on a single golf shot, or even two or three," said Palmer.

Following that big-money putt, Palmer received a hearty hug from Lee Trevino, who had helped turn Palmer into the day's best putter by showing him a new grip.

Nicklaus was second in winnings with \$140,000 Trevino pocketed \$70,000, while Player was shut out.

Play began on the eighth hole, as Saturday's action was halted after the seventh when the television broadcast ended.

No Skins had been awarded on Saturday, so the "Skins," or dollar value of each hole was carried over until a hole was won outright by a golfer. Thus the eighth hole was worth \$140,000, the accumulation of eight Skins.

Nicklaus won the hole, the only one he would win during the event, with a three-foot birdie putt. The balls of the other three players had landed at least 15 feet from the hole, and each man was over anxious with his birdie attempt.

One hole too late, Palmer took the ninth with an eighth-foot birdie, good for a mere \$25,000 and assuring him that he would not suffer the embarrassment of being shut out.

Player was not as fortunate, despite carding four birdies he won no money, and had to undergo the further ignominy of being forced to leave the foursome after the first of two playoff holes when he was the only one not to make birdie.

Trevino ended the competition on the second extra hole, winning the final two Skins, and \$70,000 with a par.

Armour triumphs easily

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz., Jan 29, (Reuters): Tommy Armour III birdied four of the first nine holes yesterday to claim his first PGA Tour win with an easy five-stroke victory in the \$900,000 Phoenix Open golf tournament.

The victory was worth \$162,000 to Armour, a four-year tour veteran. His final round of three-under-par 68 gave him a total of 17-under-par 267 and the victory over Jim Thorpe, who closed with a 68 for a 12-under 272.

Armour began the final round with a three-shot lead. "Last night I went home and envisioned being back here (in the interview room) and talking about the victory," Armour said. "Then I told myself I still have to go out and do it play the final 18 holes."

Although he never was seriously pressed during the afternoon, he said it wasn't until he hit a perfect drive at the 15th hole that "I knew I had it under complete control and this was my tournament to win."

Vasquez hailed as 'Real's 'bullfighter'

Maradona gets into further trouble

MEXICAN striker Hugo Sanchez scored a remarkable hat-trick on Sunday as Real Madrid trounced Castellon 7-0 but it was two-goal Rafael Martin Vasquez who won the accolades.

The 24-year-old Real midfielder, once hailed by Argentine World Cup winning manager Cesar Luis Menotti as potentially the world's greatest player, left the Bernabeu stadium with Spain's highest sporting praise still ringing in his ears.

"Torero, Torero (bullfighter)," the fans shouted, waving white handkerchiefs in a standing ovation after he scored his second goal in the 58th minute by dribbling past the defence and drilling a tightly-angled shot past the goalkeeper.

In a banner headline yesterday, the sports newspaper Marca applauded the shot as a classic "textbook" goal.

"I'm very pleased... but I'm ambitious and I know I can do better," was the Vasquez's own comment after the match.

Sanchez's three goals came in the space of 17 minutes in the second half when Real were 4-0 ahead, and put the Mexican firmly in command of the scores table with 23 goals.

Real, five points clear in the Spanish First Division, have now



Maradona: refused to travel with the team

scored more than 50 goals in their last 12 home matches, an amazing average of more than four

goals a game.

"What was remarkable was less the number of goals than

their quality. They were all authentic super-goals," Real coach John Toshack said. "We gave the fans their money's worth."

He added that the game was the best performance he had ever seen from his West German midfielder Bernd Schuster.

"Real were just walking. Just imagine if they had started running," said Castellon coach Luche Garcia.

In Italy, Diego Maradona may not even be walking when league leaders Napoli meet European Cup holders AC Milan, their closest rivals, in three days time.

The Argentine and Napoli captain left the pitch five minutes before full time in his club's 1-0 win at Fiorentina and needed two stitches to a cut in his leg.

"I think it'll be tough for him to be back for Milan," the Napoli team doctor told reporters later.

Maradona, who has received a series of reprimands over missed training and late arrivals, got into further trouble on Sunday when he arrived late in Florence after declining to travel with the rest of the squad.

While the win boosted Napoli's morale, putting them three points clear at the top, the game was marred by ugly clashes off the pitch in which 25 fans and one policeman were injured.

Morale at Milan could hardly be stronger after they beat Genoa 1-0, giving them a tally of 21 points from 11 consecutive games with one game in hand over Napoli.

Milan's move into second place was at the expense of defending champions Internazionale who slipped back to fourth on goal difference after losing to Juventus.

In the Netherlands, Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven beat struggling Willem II 2-1 to extend their lead at the top to two points.

Danish international defender Ivan Nielsen, 34, is the latest to seek a transfer after being left out of the side, following a similar reaction from Dutch striker Wim Kieft after he lost his place 10 days ago.

Kieft has now withdrawn his transfer request and was restored to Saturday's starting line-up, heading the clincher.

Defender Michel Boerebach, a summer signing from Roda JC, is also reported to be unhappy at failing to hold down a regular place at PSV but coach Guus Hiddink appeared unruffled.

"It's a very interesting period for PSV and a difficult one. But it's unlikely to bring me out in a cold sweat," he said.

World title fight

World heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson and his challenger James 'Buster' Douglas are in Tokyo in connection with their world title bout scheduled for February 11. Besides preparing for their fight, both the boxers are visiting various institutions to promote their fight. Left: Tyson is all smiles as he is surrounded by handicapped children and their families at a Tokyo sports complex for the handicapped on Sunday. Left bottom: Tyson (left) and Douglas break out in sweat during separate workouts yesterday. Right bottom: Douglas has his hands bandaged as he prepares for a workout at a Tokyo gym yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)



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